

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

2015 Wisconsin Air Quality Trends Report

Data from 2001 - 2013

Publication Date: April 2015

Publication Number AM-526-2015



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Disclaimer

Although the data found using the Department's systems have been produced and processed from sources believed to be reliable, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, reliability or usefulness of any information. This disclaimer applies to both isolated and aggregate uses of the information. The Department provides this information on an as is basis. All warranties of any kind, express or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, freedom from contamination by computer viruses and non-infringement of proprietary rights are disclaimed. Changes may be periodically made to the information herein; these changes may or may not be incorporated in any new version of the publication. If you have obtained information from the Department from a source other than the Department, be aware that electronic data can be altered subsequent to original distribution. Data can also quickly become out-of-date. It is recommended that careful attention be paid to the contents of any data associated with a file, and that the originator of the data or information be contacted with any questions regarding appropriate use.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Contents

Disclaimer.....	i
Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	iv
Report Summary.....	1
Background.....	2
Federal Regulatory History.....	2
NAAQS Calculations.....	2
Ozone (O ₃).....	4
Regulatory History.....	4
Wisconsin Non-Compliance History (Ozone).....	5
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5} and PM ₁₀).....	5
Regulatory History.....	5
Wisconsin Non-Compliance History (PM _{2.5}).....	6
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂).....	6
Regulatory History.....	6
Wisconsin Non-Compliance History (SO ₂).....	6
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂).....	6
Regulatory History (NO ₂).....	7
Lead.....	7
Regulatory History (Lead).....	7
Carbon Monoxide (CO).....	7
Regulatory History.....	7
Regional Pollutant Trends.....	8
Ozone (O ₃).....	8
Fine Particles (PM _{2.5}).....	13
Inhalable Course Particles (PM ₁₀).....	19
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂).....	21
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂).....	23
Lead (Pb).....	26
Carbon Monoxide (CO).....	28
Appendix A. – Air Quality by County.....	30
Ashland County.....	30

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Brown County	32
Dane County.....	35
Dodge County	38
Door County.....	41
Fond du Lac County.....	42
Forest County.....	43
Grant County.....	46
Jefferson County	47
Kenosha County	48
Kewaunee County	50
La Crosse County.....	51
Manitowoc County.....	53
Marathon County.....	54
Milwaukee County	55
Oneida County	59
Ozaukee County	62
Racine County	64
Rock County	65
Sauk County	66
Taylor County.....	70
Vilas County	72
Walworth County.....	74
Waukesha County	75

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CASAC: Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee

CO: Carbon monoxide

CBSA: Core Based Statistical Area

EPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NAAQS: National Ambient Air Quality Standards

O₃: Ozone

NO₂: Nitrogen dioxide

NO_x: Nitrogen oxides

Pb: Lead

PM_{2.5}: Particulate matter 2.5 microns or smaller in size

PM₁₀: Particulate matter 10 microns or smaller in size

PPB: Parts per billion

PPM: Parts per million

SO₂: Sulfur dioxide

TSP: Total suspended particles

UV: Ultraviolet

VOC: Volatile organic compound

WDNR: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Report Summary

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) monitors ambient concentrations of several pollutants throughout the state, including ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and lead, as well as other toxic compounds. With the exception of toxics, these comprise the set of principal pollutants, called criteria pollutants, which are regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Monitored levels of these pollutants are compared against the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set by the EPA to determine whether the levels are sufficiently low. Compliance with the standards, also referred to as attainment of the standards, is usually assessed at the county level.

This report presents Wisconsin monitoring data for the past ten years (as data is available) to show trends in pollutant concentrations over time. While the previous Wisconsin Air Quality Trends report focused on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), ozone (O₃), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂), this expanded report addresses all six criteria pollutants regulated by the EPA. The first section of the report provides an overview of the pollutants, their NAAQS regulatory history, and Wisconsin's compliance history. The second section presents the monitoring data for each pollutant, and compares the data to the relevant NAAQS. In some cases, monitoring data are grouped into broader regions to highlight geographic trends.

In general, concentrations of most of the criteria pollutants have been decreasing over the past decade in all regions of the state. In April 2014, three counties in southeastern Wisconsin that had been violating the fine particle NAAQS were redesignated as attaining the standard because of the lower concentrations observed in recent years. The overall decrease in pollutant concentrations is encouraging and is the result of cooperative regulatory control programs reducing emissions from vehicles and stationary sources in Wisconsin and surrounding states.

Two areas – Sheboygan County and a portion of Kenosha County – are currently listed as nonattainment for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. A small area around, and including, the City of Rhinelander in Oneida County is currently listed as nonattainment for the sulfur dioxide standard. The WDNR is committed to working with partners in Wisconsin and other states in the region to improve air quality in those areas.

Annual differences in meteorological conditions can lead to variability in measured concentrations. Relative to the summer of 2012, the summer of 2013 was cooler and conditions were not as conducive to ozone formation. While annual data is important to consider, long term trends in air quality guide decisions about management of air quality issues at federal and state levels.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Background

Federal Regulatory History

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The technical basis for the NAAQS is provided through the independent advice of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), as well as EPA staff evaluation.

There are two types of standards – primary and secondary. Primary standards are those set at a level meant to protect general human health, especially for those with respiratory conditions or particular sensitivity to pollutant exposure. Secondary standards are intended to prevent impaired visibility, structural damage, and vegetative/livestock injury. The current standards for the six criteria pollutants regulated by the EPA are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. EPA criteria pollutants and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Pollutant		Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Definition
Carbon Monoxide		primary	8-hour	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
			1-hour	35 ppm	
Lead		primary and secondary	Rolling 3-month average	0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide		primary	1-hour	100 ppb	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	Annual	53 ppb	Annual mean
Ozone*		primary and secondary	8-hour	0.075 ppm	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hr concentration, averaged over 3 years
Particulate Matter	PM _{2.5}	primary	Annual	12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	Annual	15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	24-hour	35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
	PM ₁₀	primary and secondary	24-hour	150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide		primary	1-hour	75 ppb	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	3-hour	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year

Based on the EPA table at < <http://epa.gov/air/criteria.html>>

*Note: A more stringent ozone standard was proposed by EPA on November 26, 2014

NAAQS Calculations

Design values are used to assess compliance with the NAAQS and are based on data collected over long periods. Usually, design values are averaged to ensure they represent typical pollutant concentrations rather than isolated spikes in concentrations. The design values for criteria pollutants are calculated using the method specified for each standard, as shown in the “Averaging Time” and “Definition”

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

columns of Table 1. As examples, the following paragraphs explain how ozone and fine particle design values are calculated.

The metric used to determine compliance with the ozone NAAQS is the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over a period of three years. Individual days are first divided into 24 8-hour periods. Midnight to 8 AM, for example, would be the first period. The average ozone concentration during each period is calculated, and the highest of the 24 average values is selected. Figure 1 shows the highest average value each day during the 2013 ozone season. The fourth-highest value of the year is identified, and then averaged with the fourth-highest value from two consecutive years to obtain the design value. For instance, the 2013 design value was calculated by averaging the fourth-highest 8-hour maximum in 2013 with the fourth-highest values for 2012 and 2011. Note that even though the fourth-highest ozone value for 2013 was above the standard, ozone concentrations were below the standard for most days of the season.

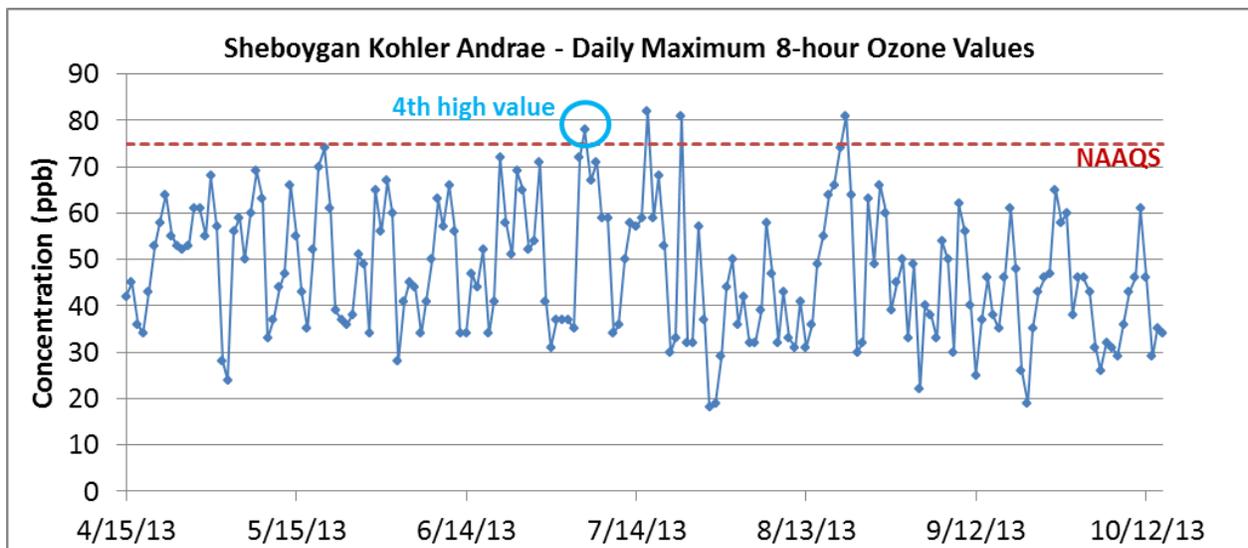


Figure 1. Sample calculation for the ozone NAAQS.

For $PM_{2.5}$, design values are calculated for the 24-hour NAAQS (Figure 2) and the annual NAAQS. To obtain 24-hour design values, the 98th percentile of daily fine particulate averages is calculated and averaged over three consecutive years. The 98th percentile value is the observed concentration below which 98 percent of observations fall. Only 2 percent of observed concentrations are higher than this value. In the example shown in Figure 2, the calculated value for 2013 is averaged with values from 2012 and 2011 to derive the official 2013 design value. The annual mean design value for $PM_{2.5}$ is simply the average of the annual mean from three individual years.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

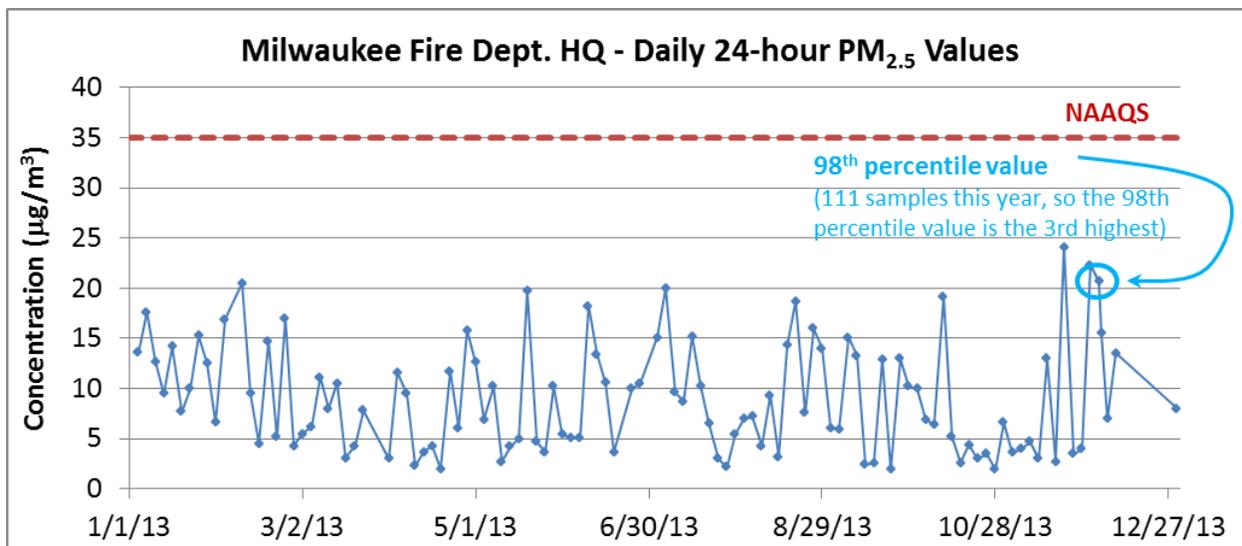


Figure 2. Sample calculation for 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Ozone (O₃)

Ozone is a naturally occurring form of oxygen. While the oxygen molecules predominantly found in the atmosphere contain two atoms, ozone molecules contain three. This form of oxygen is unstable, and is constantly forming and decomposing through a variety of atmospheric reactions. Ozone is present in the Earth's upper atmosphere as well as at ground-level. Ozone found at higher levels in the atmosphere (stratospheric ozone) filters out harmful UV rays, while ground-level (tropospheric) ozone can have an adverse impact on health. Monitored values of ozone found in this report represent ground-level ozone.

Ground-level ozone is not directly emitted into the air, but is created by photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. The highest ozone concentrations measured typically occur on hot sunny days downwind of urban areas; ozone can be transported long distances. Ozone concentrations in Wisconsin are significantly higher during the warmer months, and April 15th to October 15th is currently regarded as the state's ozone season.

Ozone exposure can lead to numerous health issues, including respiratory system irritation, reduced lung function, inflammation of and damage to cells in the lungs, aggravation of asthma and chronic lung diseases, increased lung susceptibility to infection, and potential for permanent lung damage. Children are at the greatest risk from exposure to ozone because their lungs are still developing. Research has also shown that at certain levels, ozone can negatively affect vegetation and ecosystems.

Regulatory History

The original 1-hour ozone standard of 125 ppb was set in 1971. In July 1997, the EPA replaced the 1-hour standard with an 8-hour standard of 0.08 ppm (84 ppb) to protect the public against longer term exposure. In March 2008, the 8-hour standard was lowered to 0.075 ppm (75 ppb). The 8-hour standard is met when the calculated design value measured at a monitoring site is equal to or less than 75 ppb. On November 26, 2014, the EPA proposed a more stringent ozone standard for public comment.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Wisconsin Non-Compliance History (Ozone)

In 2004, ten counties in eastern Wisconsin were designated as nonattainment for the 1997 ozone standard. Kewaunee County, Door County, Manitowoc County, and the Milwaukee-Racine Area were redesignated to attainment in 2008, 2010, 2010, and 2012, respectively. Meanwhile, the Sheboygan area remains in nonattainment and was designated as such under the newer, more stringent 8-hour 2008 standard. In 2012, a portion of Kenosha County was also designated nonattainment based on 2010 to 2012 data. Nonattainment designations currently remain in effect for these two areas.

Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀)

Particulate matter, or particle pollution, is a complex mixture of organic and inorganic materials (primarily nitrates and sulfates) and elemental carbon. It can also include acids, metals, soil or dust, and allergens. Fine particle pollution primarily forms in the atmosphere, but can also be emitted during combustion processes. Coarse particle pollution is primarily formed through mechanical processes such as crushing, grinding, etc. For monitoring purposes, particulate matter is divided into two predominant size classes according to diameter: PM_{2.5} or fine particles (2.5 micrometers or smaller) and PM₁₀ or inhalable coarse particles (10 micrometers or smaller).

PM_{2.5} may be categorized as one of two different types. Primary particles are those emitted directly from sources such as vehicles, fires, or combustion smokestacks. Secondary particles are those that form when other pollutants, such as sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides, react in the atmosphere with ammonia and other gases. Particles created by these types of reactions comprise the vast majority of fine particle pollution.

While all particle pollution poses a health risk according to EPA, PM_{2.5} poses the greatest risk because of its ability to penetrate deep into the respiratory tract. Very small particles may also eventually spread to the bloodstream. Studies have shown an association between fine particle exposure and premature death from heart or lung disease, as well as aggravated respiratory conditions such as asthma and airway irritation. Individuals most sensitive to fine particle exposure include those with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children.

Regulatory History

EPA's original 1971 standard for particle pollution set a limit for total suspended particles (TSP), which included both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, as well as coarser particles up to approximately 20 micrometers in diameter. In 1987, EPA discontinued the standard for TSP and replaced it with two PM₁₀ standards: a 24-hour limit of 150 micrograms per cubic meter, and an annual limit of 50 micrograms per cubic meter. EPA introduced a separate standard for PM_{2.5} in 1997. These separate standards are discussed further in the following sections.

PM_{2.5}

The 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard was set by the EPA at 65 micrograms per cubic meter for the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile concentration. The annual standard was established the same year at 15 micrograms per cubic meter, based on the 3-year average of the annual mean PM_{2.5} concentration. In 2006, the 24-hour standard was lowered to 35 micrograms per cubic meter, while in 2012, the annual standard was lowered to 12 micrograms per cubic meter, effective January 2014.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

PM₁₀

The original 1987 annual PM₁₀ standard of 50 micrograms per cubic meter was revoked in 2006 by EPA, whereas the 24-hour standard of 150 micrograms per cubic meter remains in effect today.

Wisconsin Non-Compliance History (PM_{2.5})

In 2009, the EPA designated Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha counties as not attaining, or non-compliant with, the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS based on monitoring data from 2006 to 2008. In June 2012, the DNR submitted a request to EPA to redesignate these counties to attainment based on monitoring data collected between 2008 and 2011. All PM_{2.5} monitors in the state have measured attainment levels since that time. The EPA proposed redesignation of the three counties to attainment, and the redesignation was finalized on April 22, 2014. As a result of this action, all counties in Wisconsin are currently in attainment of the 24-hour and annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a chemical compound that is one of a group of highly reactive gases known as 'oxides of sulfur'. It is a product of combustion, and the largest emission source of SO₂ is fossil fuel combustion at power plants and other industrial facilities.

Exposure to SO₂ has been shown to cause a range of adverse respiratory effects, including bronchoconstriction and increased asthma symptoms. Further, emission sources that contribute to high concentrations of SO₂ also contribute to the formation of other oxides of sulfur. Some of these oxides can react with other compounds in the atmosphere to form fine particles, which can penetrate deep into the lungs.

Regulatory History

The EPA first set standards for SO₂ in 1971. A 24-hour primary standard was set at 140 ppb and an annual average primary standard at 30 ppb. A 3-hour secondary standard of 500 ppb was also set to protect public welfare. In 1996, the standards were reviewed and the EPA decided not to revise them.

In 2010, the EPA revised the primary SO₂ standards by establishing a new 1-hour standard at 75 ppb. The EPA revoked the two existing primary standards (24-hour and annual) because the 1-hour standard is more protective of public health. The 3-hour secondary standard remains in effect.

Wisconsin Non-Compliance History (SO₂)

In 2013, the EPA designated a portion of Oneida County as nonattainment for the 2010 primary SO₂ NAAQS.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a reactive byproduct of combustion produced mainly by vehicles, resulting in concentrations that are highest immediately adjacent to roadways. NO₂ and nitrogen oxide (NO) together comprise important precursors of ozone, which is generated in a reaction of NO₂ and NO with VOCs in the presence of sunlight. In addition, these gases can also react with other pollutants to form airborne particulate matter. Research indicates that direct exposure to NO₂ for shorter time periods can

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

result in respiratory issues such as airway inflammation and aggravated asthma. Longer term exposure poses a risk of acute respiratory illness and inhibited lung development in children.

Regulatory History (NO₂)

The EPA set the original standard for NO₂ at 53 ppb based on an annual average. This standard is still in effect. In 2010, the EPA established an additional hourly standard of 100 ppb. Historically, Wisconsin has had no NO₂ nonattainment areas.

Lead

Lead can be found in several places in the environment, including the air, water, and soil. Before unleaded gasoline was introduced in 1980, vehicle emissions were the primary source of airborne lead. Today, lead is emitted mainly from industrial metal processing sources, as well as the combustion of leaded aviation fuel.

People can be directly exposed to lead in the air. In addition, deposition onto soil or bodies of water may cause lead to accumulate in natural ecosystems and contaminate drinking water. Health effects of lead exposure in humans are numerous and well-documented. In general, neurological effects and developmental risks are the largest danger for children, whereas cardiovascular effects such as heart disease and high blood pressure commonly affect adults.

Wisconsin uses a collection technique that measures lead content as a subset of TSP samples as required by federal rule. During the past decade, no areas in Wisconsin have had levels of lead that exceed the NAAQS.

Regulatory History (Lead)

The original lead standard, set by the EPA in 1978, was 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter on a calendar quarterly average basis. In 2008, this standard was phased out and replaced by a rolling three month averaging period; the standard was also lowered to 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter. The design value for lead is determined using the maximum 3-month average over a period of three years.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a toxic gas that is well-known as a potential danger in indoor environments, though it is also emitted into the ambient air primarily by mobile sources. In addition, it reacts under certain conditions to form ground-level ozone.

CO exposure can reduce people's respiration efficiency, resulting in short-term symptoms, or in extremely high concentrations, fatality. People suffering from heart disease face increased risks from exposure to CO because their respiration efficiency is already compromised.

Regulatory History

The EPA originally set standards for CO in 1971: an 8-hour standard of 9 ppm and a 1-hour standard of 35 ppm. These standards were reviewed in 1994 and 2011 but were not changed, and therefore remain in effect.

Regional Pollutant Trends

The following sections present Wisconsin monitoring data for all six criteria pollutants over the last decade. Design values from 2003 to 2013 are plotted and compared against the relevant NAAQS to show how the state's air quality has been changing over time. The data for some pollutants are also organized regionally to highlight geographic trends. Specifically, different areas of the state are prone to higher concentrations of fine particles (PM_{2.5}) and ozone – the main criteria pollutants of concern in Wisconsin.

The data presented is from current ambient air monitoring sites operated by WDNR that have a history of data long enough to create a 3-year design value. The particulate and lead data are collected at WDNR sites using filter-based monitors, which operate at a frequency ranging from daily to once every 12 days. The remaining criteria pollutants are measured using a network of continuously operating monitors, which are the basis for real-time health advisories. Usually, NAAQS attainment is assessed by county. For counties with multiple monitors, the monitor with the highest design value is compared against the NAAQS.

Ozone (O₃)

Ozone forms primarily as the result of reactions between VOC and NO_x emissions in the atmosphere. The Chicago Metro area is the main area generating the ozone precursors affecting Wisconsin. These precursors react to form the pollutant over Lake Michigan. Ozone formation is greatest on hot, sunny, and humid days. On these days, temperature gradients from the shoreline to the lake create pressure differences, which cause an on-shore or lake breeze in the afternoon. The portion of Wisconsin lakeshore counties closest to Lake Michigan experiences the highest ozone concentrations on days with a southerly breeze, which transports ozone precursors north from the Chicago area to Wisconsin. This transport, in combination with the lake breeze, pushes ozone formed over the lake onshore. For this reason, ozone concentrations in Wisconsin are closely correlated with distance from the Lake Michigan shoreline, as demonstrated when design values are compared across three distinct regions:

- 1) **Lakeshore** - counties between Illinois and Green Bay which border Lake Michigan
- 2) **Inland** - counties in central and western Wisconsin
- 3) **Far North** – counties in the northern part of the state (north of Hwy 29) near the Upper Peninsula

Figure 3 shows the most recently available ozone design values for each region for the period 2011 to 2013. Five of eleven monitoring locations in the Lakeshore region observed design values greater than the 75 ppb NAAQS for ozone. No monitors in the other two regions exceeded the standard, and locations in western and northern Wisconsin recorded the lowest ozone concentrations.

8-Hour Ozone Design Values: 2011-2013

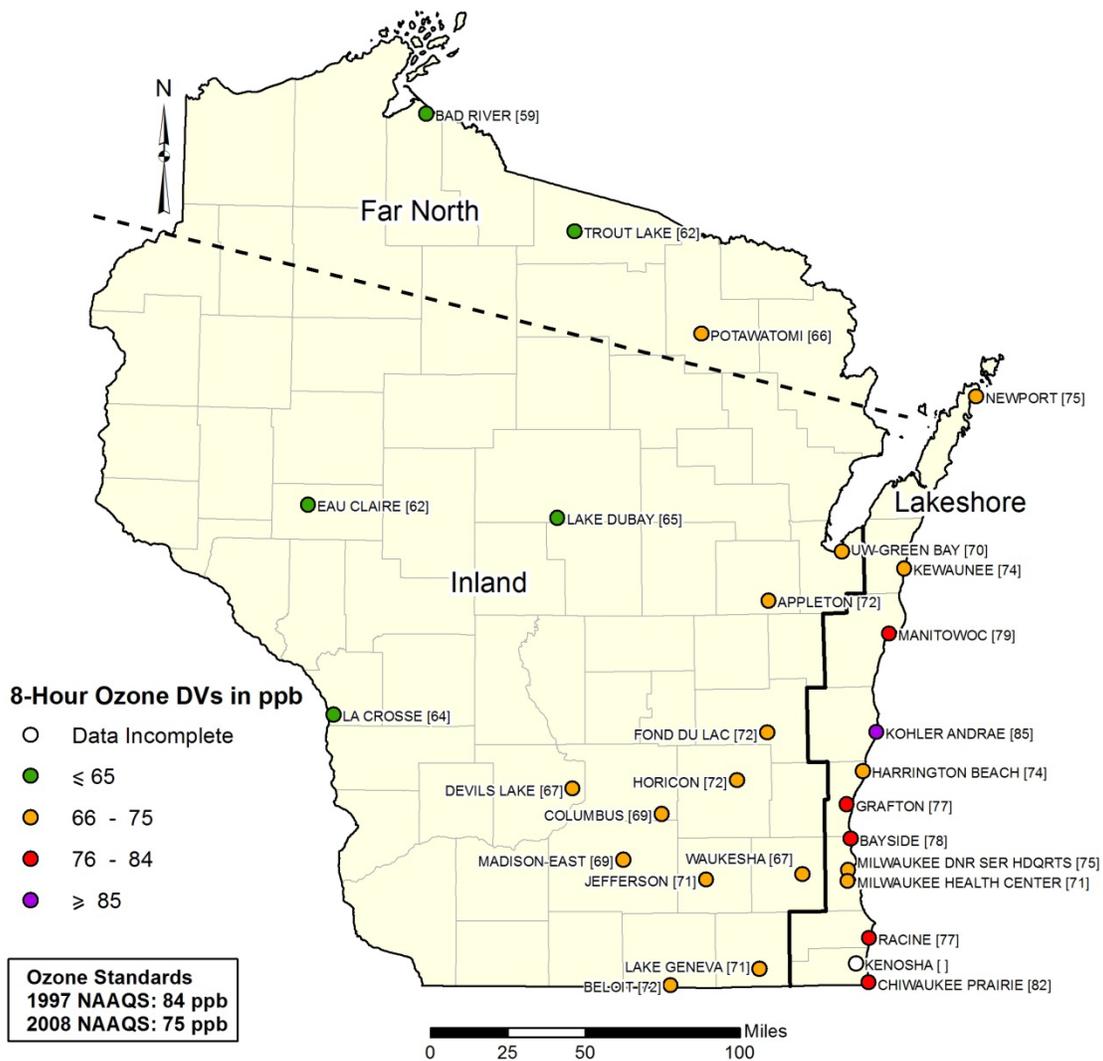


Figure 3. Regional ozone design values (8-hr averages) for each monitoring location for the period 2011 to 2013.

Figure 4 shows a plot of design values for the Lakeshore Counties over the period 2003 to 2014. These design values are compared with the NAAQS to assess compliance with the federal standard. The relationship between design values from different monitoring stations is generally consistent over time (e.g., the values from the Racine station are consistently greater than the values from the Milwaukee station on 16th Street). The sites collectively demonstrate a downward trend over the period, with the lowest average design values for the region recorded in the 2010 design value year (which represents data from 2008 to 2010). The summer of 2012 was extraordinarily hot, with accordingly high ozone concentrations. Design values for the last two years are higher than the previous period due to the inclusion of 2012. Over the past six years, the station located in Kohler-Andrae State Park in Sheboygan County has generally shown the highest design values in the region.

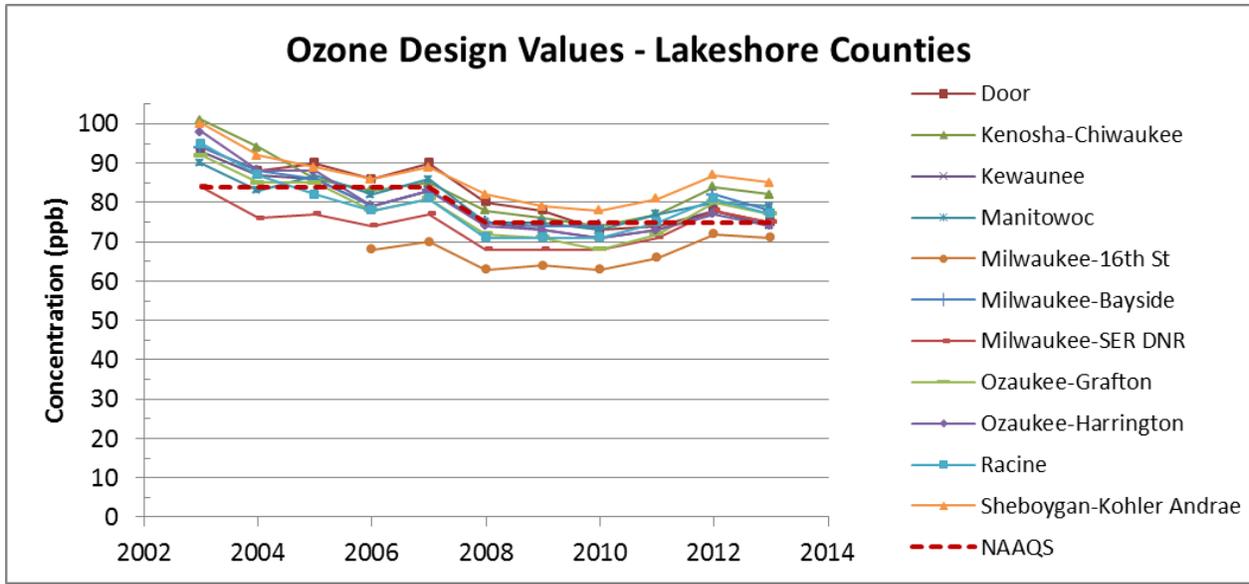


Figure 4. Ozone design values for Lakeshore Counties, 2003 - 2014. Note that the standard was lowered from 84 ppb to 75 ppb in 2008.

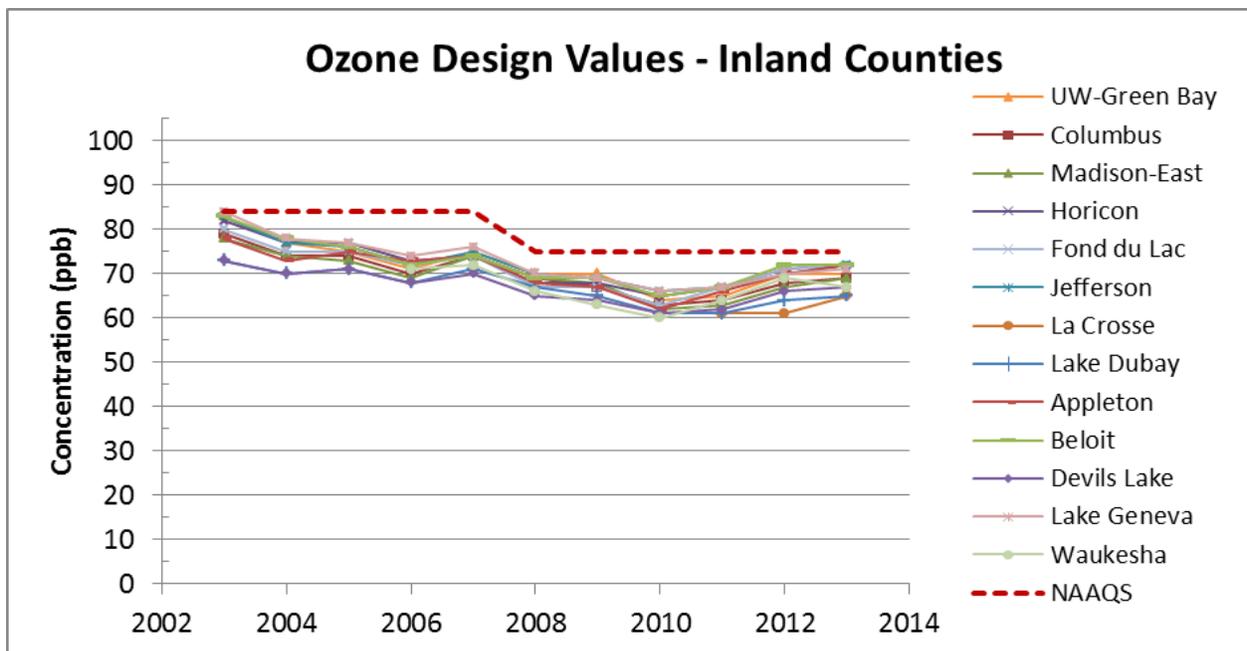


Figure 5 shows design values for Inland Counties over the period 2003 to 2014. Like the Lakeshore Counties, the design values for each of these monitoring locations generally decrease over time. The lowest design values in this region, 61 ppb, was observed in both La Crosse and Lake DuBay in the 2010 design value year. Design values were higher for the last two years due to high ozone concentrations in 2012. No design value in this region exceeded the NAAQS between 2003 and 2014.

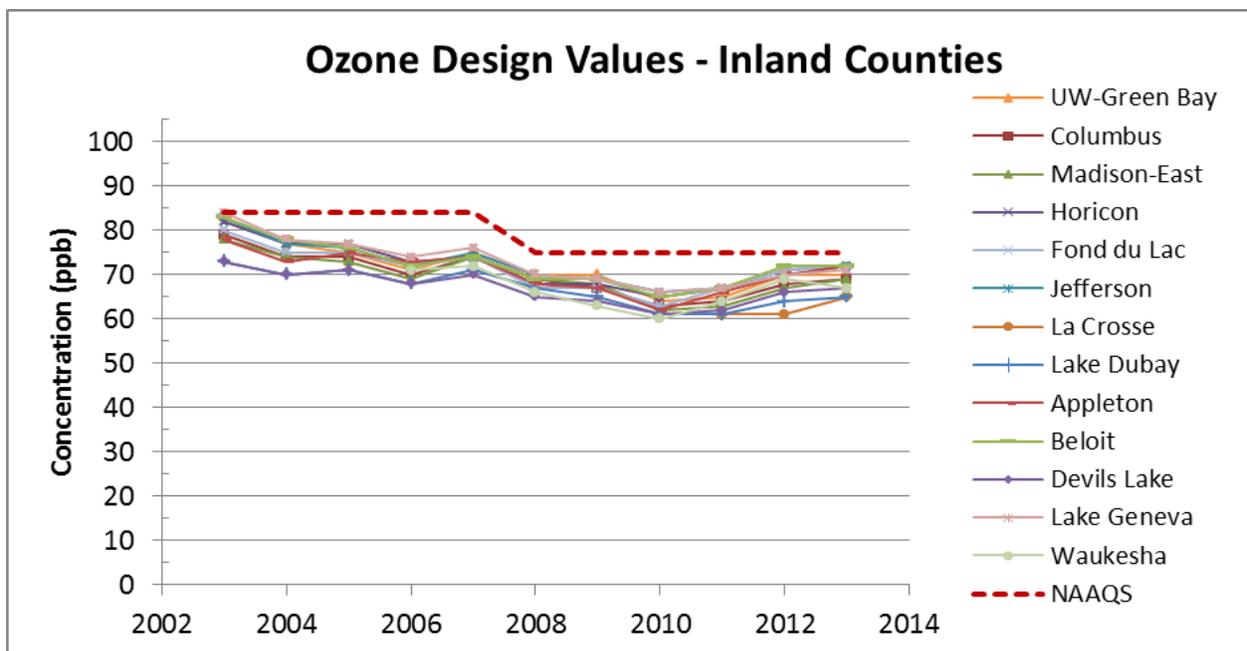


Figure 5. Ozone design values for Inland Counties, 2003 - 2014. Note that the standard was lowered from 84 ppb to 75 ppb in 2008.

Overall, the design values in Inland Counties are more similar between sites than those in the Lakeshore Counties. This finding suggests that while ozone concentrations are subject to variation at local scales in

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

the Lakeshore Region due to the impact of the lake breeze effect, Inland Region concentrations are buffered from this effect because they are farther from the shoreline. Because onshore ozone transport is less of a factor at Inland locations, the ozone concentrations at the Inland sites are both more uniform throughout the region and generally lower than concentrations at the Lakeshore sites.

Figure 6 shows ozone design values over the period 2006 to 2014 for the three monitoring locations in the Far Northern Region. Data was incomplete prior to 2006 for the Potawatomi site in Forest County, while data is available starting in 2007 and 2009 for the Bad River and Trout Lake sites in Ashland and Vilas Counties, respectively. All locations were consistently below the NAAQS and represent the overall lowest concentrations of ozone in the state. Minimum levels for the region were observed in design value years 2010 and 2011; the Bad River station observed the lowest concentrations among the three locations.

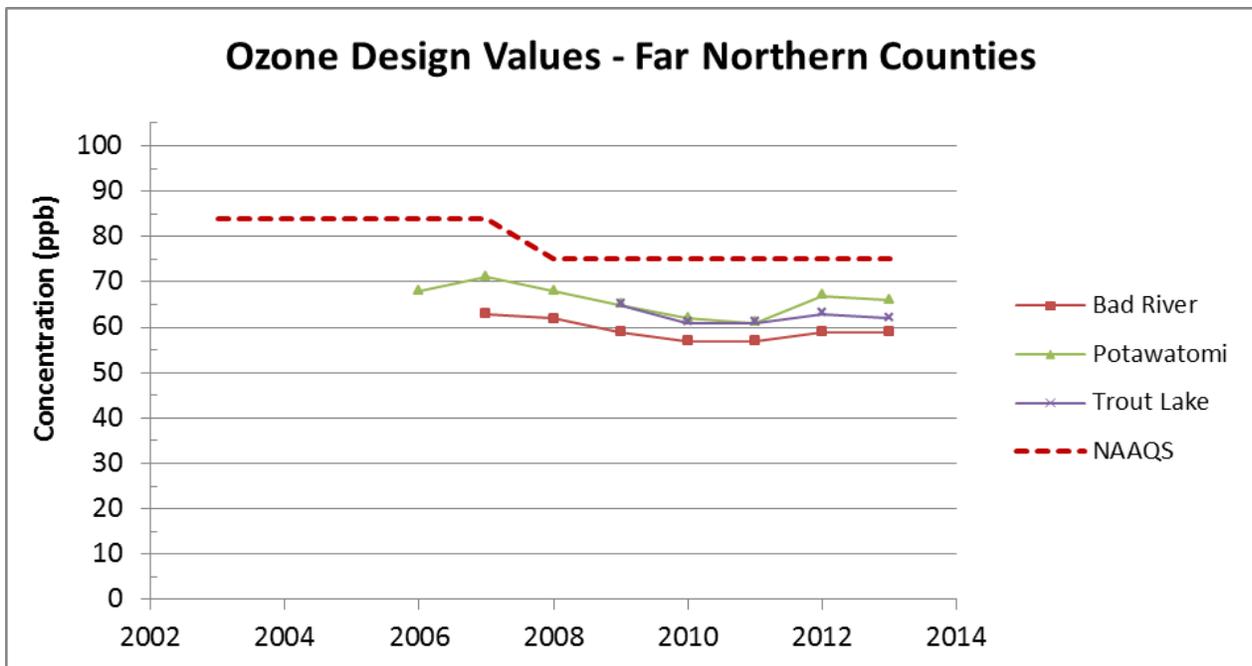


Figure 6. Ozone design values for Far Northern Counties, 2003 - 2014. Note that the standard was lowered from 84 ppb to 75 ppb in 2008.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Fine Particles (PM_{2.5})

WDNR maintains a robust network of fine particle (PM_{2.5}) monitors throughout the state and currently measures attainment of the 24-hour and annual standards at all locations. PM_{2.5} may be transported long distances and may affect air quality over large geographical areas. The pollutant's ambient concentrations are strongly influenced by weather, so it is possible to forecast conditions. Local topography may also influence particulate patterns. Specifically, low-lying areas may exhibit elevated particulate levels during a period of localized air stagnation.

To highlight geographic trends in PM_{2.5} concentrations, design values are grouped by the following regions:

- 1) Southeastern
- 2) Inland
- 3) Far Northern

Figure 7 shows annual PM_{2.5} design values for the period 2011 to 2013, while Figure 8 shows 24-hour design values for the same period. For both sets of design values, the highest values were observed in the Milwaukee and Madison areas, though no monitors exceeded either standard.

Figure 9 shows annual and 24-hour design values for the seven monitoring locations in the Southeastern Region over the period 2001 to 2013. Design values are reported starting in 2004 and 2011, respectively, for the Harrington Beach and Milwaukee College Ave. sites. Monitoring at the Milwaukee College Ave site paused in 2010 and 2011 and resumed in 2012, so we do not show design values for 2010-2013 for this site.

The relationships between design values at different locations are relatively consistent for both the annual and 24-hour design values.

For both metrics, monitors have measured a steady decrease in concentrations over the past six years, reaching the lowest overall concentrations in 2013. The Harrington Beach site generally has the lowest annual and 24-hour design values. The Waukesha site generally records the highest annual value, and the Milwaukee 16th St. Health Center site often measured the highest 24-hour design values.

While none of the monitors has ever measured an annual design value exceeding the relevant NAAQS (the 2006 annual standard of 15 µg/m³ or the 2012 annual standard of 12 µg/m³), the decrease in the 24-hour standard from 65 to 35 µg/m³ in 2006 resulted in some monitors exceeding the standard during subsequent years. Specifically, the EPA designated Racine, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties as nonattainment in 2009. In April of 2014, these nonattainment designations were lifted after design values ultimately demonstrated compliance with the 24-hour NAAQS.

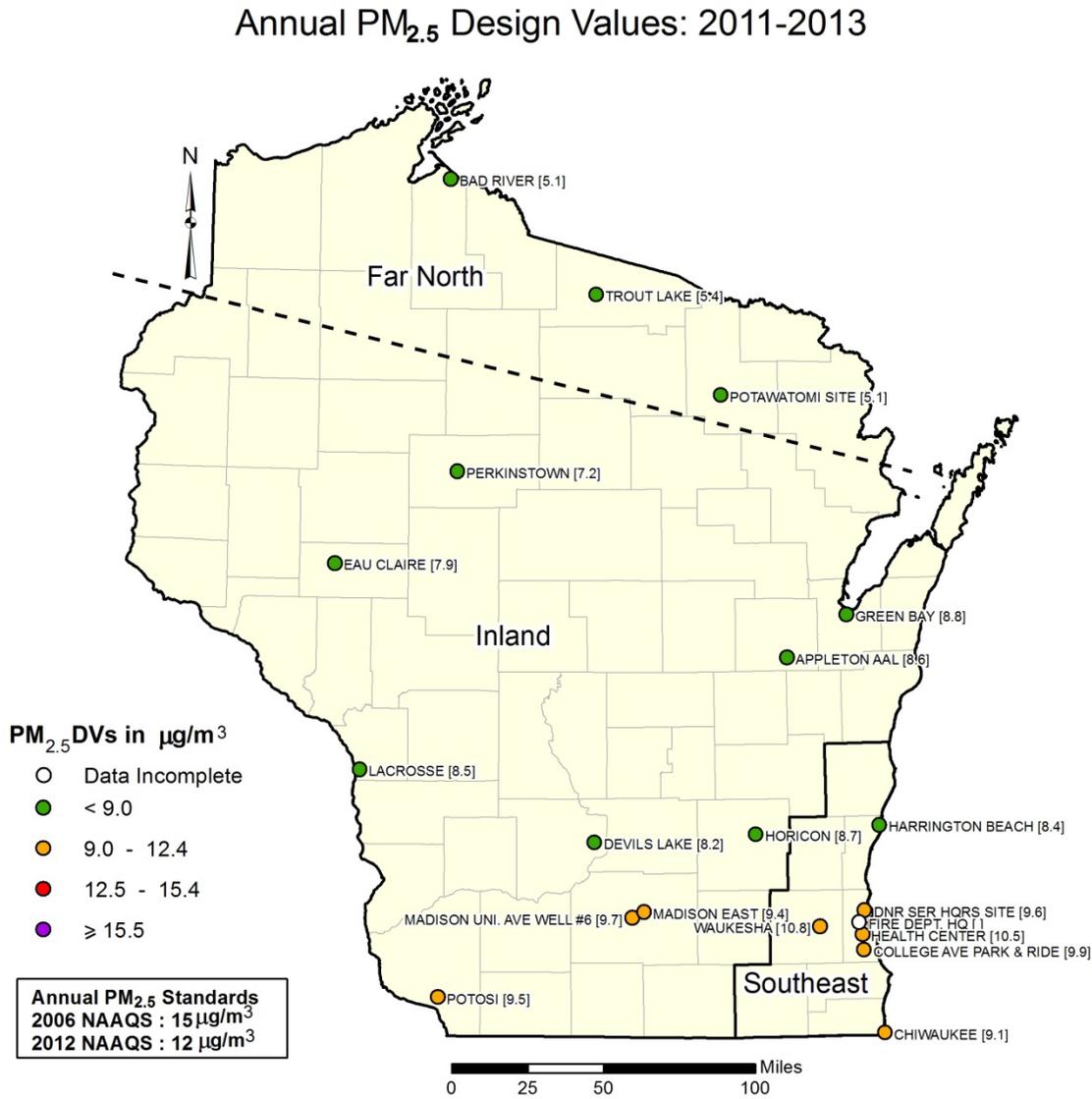


Figure 7. Annual PM_{2.5} design values based on data from 2011 to 2013. The NAAQS is $12 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

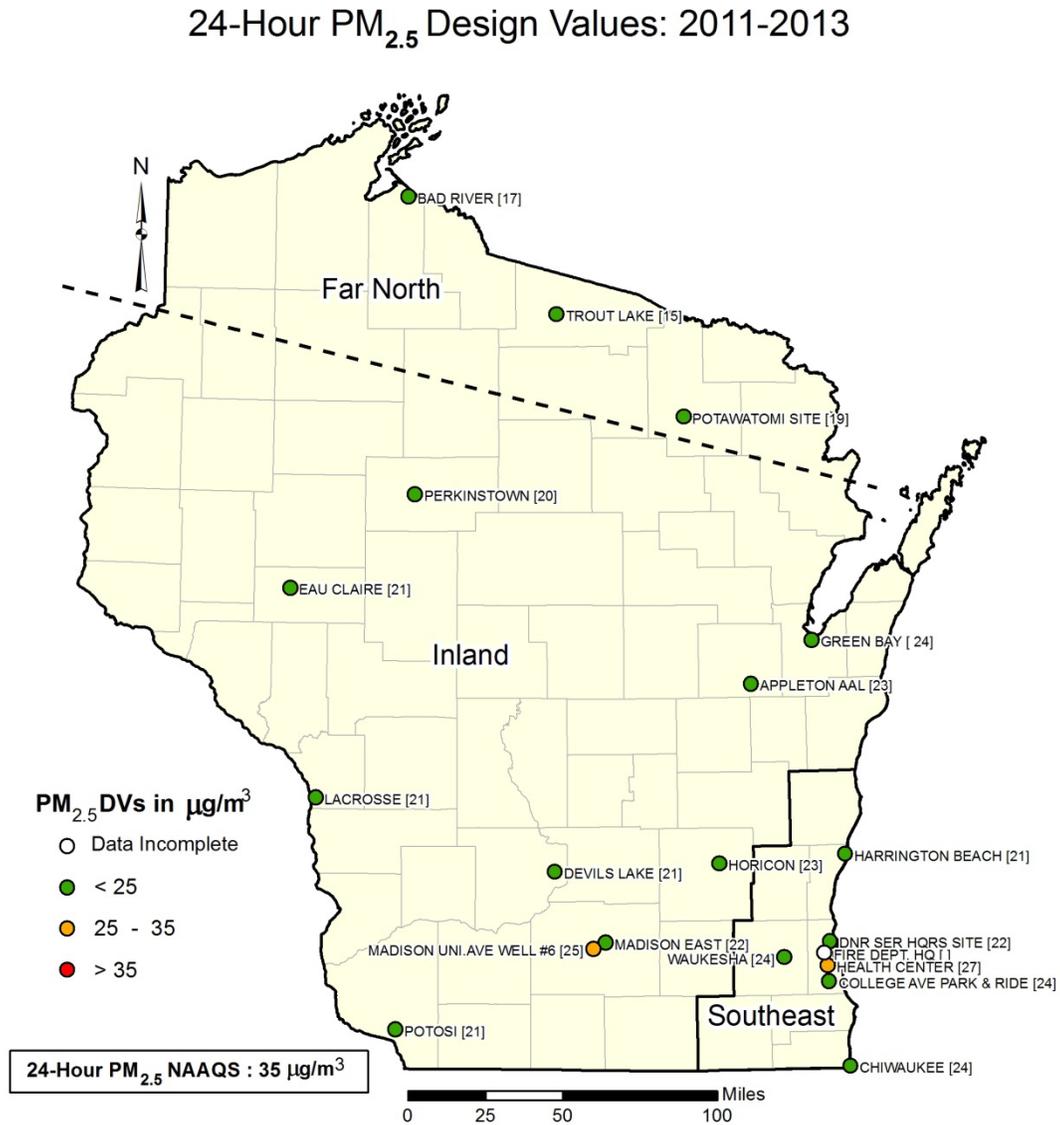


Figure 8. 24-hour PM_{2.5} design values based on data from 2011 to 2013. The NAAQS is 35 µg/m³.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

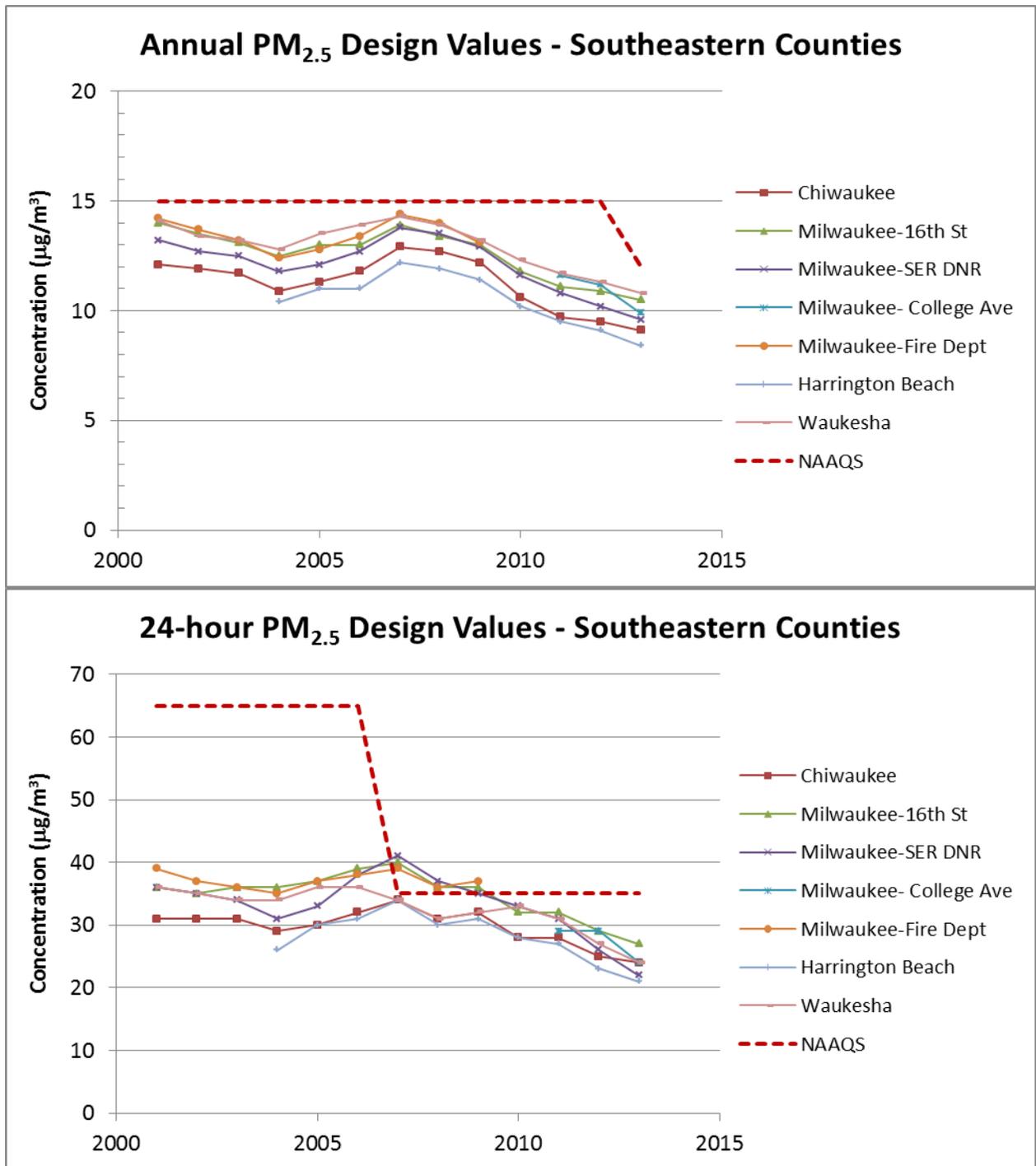


Figure 9. Annual (top) and 24-hour (bottom) PM_{2.5} design values in the Southeastern Region for the period 2001 to 2013. Note that the annual standard was lowered from 15 to 12 µg/m³ in 2013, and the 24-hour standard was lowered from 65 to 35 µg/m³ in 2006.

Figure 10 shows annual and 24-hour design values for the ten monitoring locations in the Inland Region over the period 2001 to 2013. Similar to locations in the Southeastern Region, the relationships between annual design values at different sites are consistent over time. The annual design values decrease consistently at all sites after 2008. The lowest annual design values in this region are observed at the Perkinstown station in Taylor County.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Trends over time are less consistent across sites for the 24-hour design values prior to 2008, and the values decrease after 2008. Immediately after the lower standard went into effect in 2007, the Green Bay East and Madison University sites measured exceedances of the NAAQS, though no sites did in subsequent years.

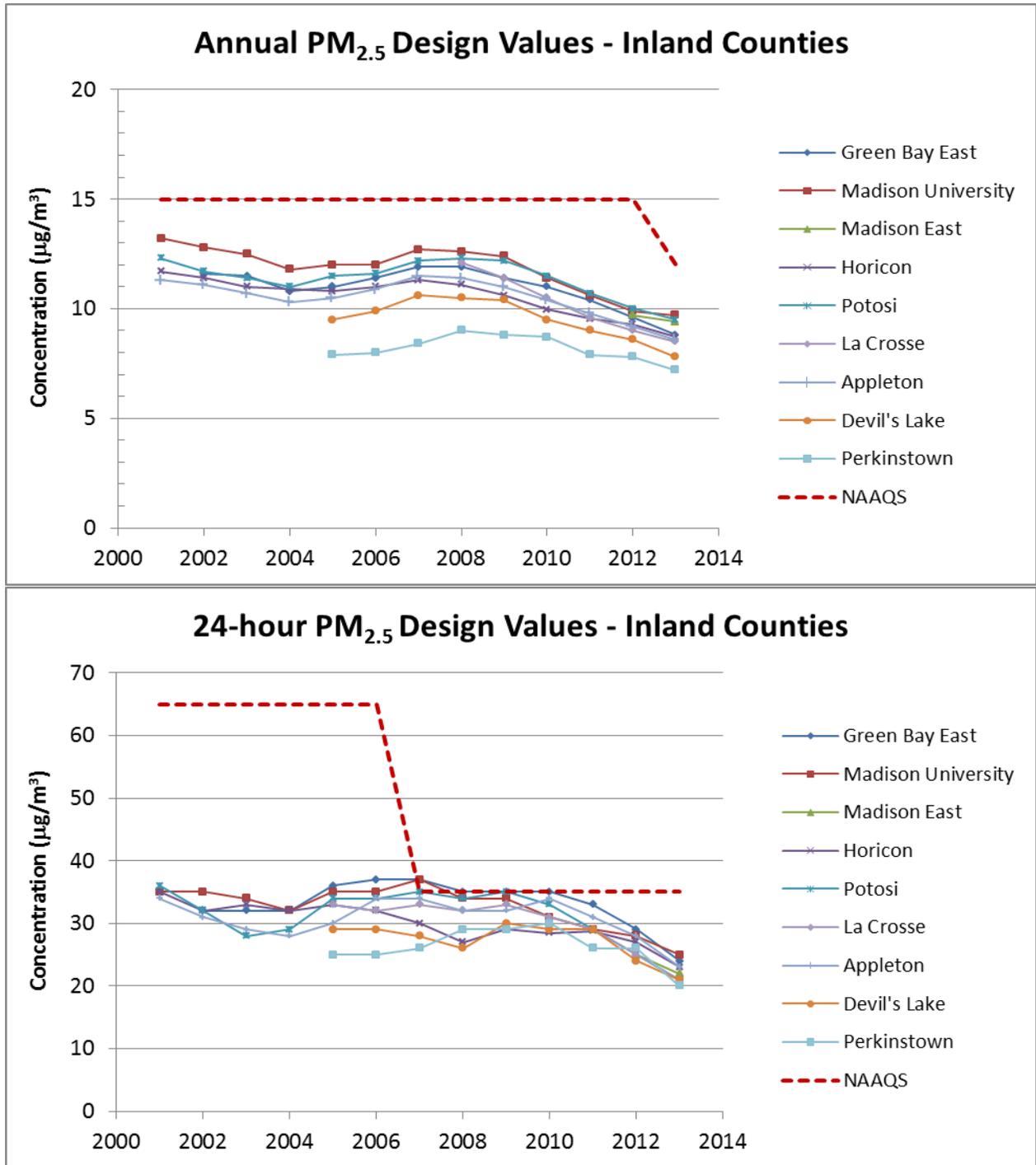


Figure 10. Annual (top) and 24-hour (bottom) PM_{2.5} design values in the Inland Region for the period 2001 to 2013. Note that the annual standard was lowered from 15 to 12 µg/m³ in 2013, and the 24-hour standard was lowered from 65 to 35 µg/m³ in 2006.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Figure 11 shows annual and 24-hour design values for the three monitoring locations in the Far Northern Region over the period 2001 to 2013, though values are not reported for the Bad River and Potawatomi sites until 2004 and 2006, respectively. Monitors in this region show the lowest concentrations of particle pollution in the state, and the annual design values still decrease consistently after 2008. Agreement between monitors is much stronger for the annual design values than the 24-hour values.

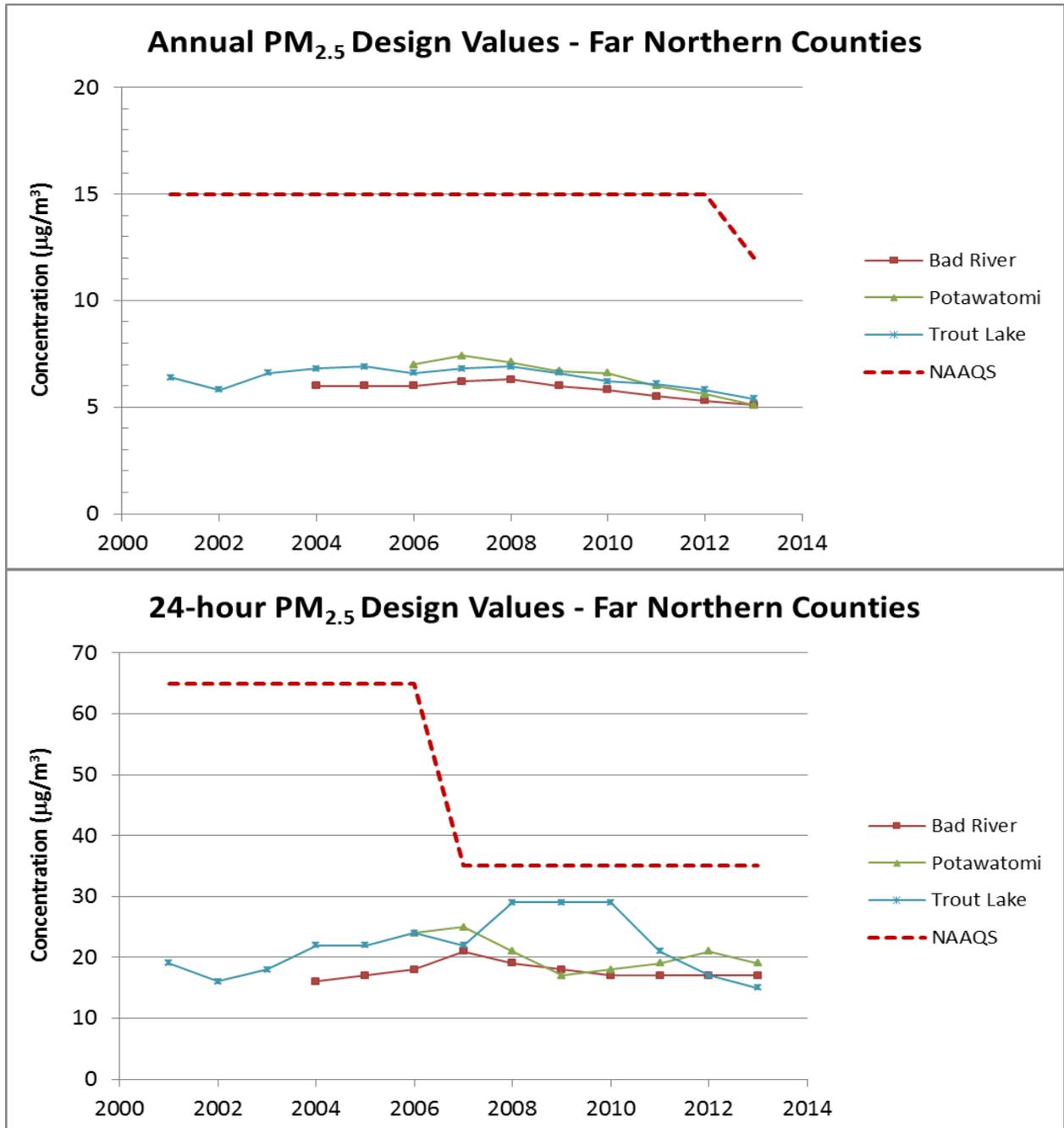


Figure 11. Annual (top) and 24-hour (bottom) PM_{2.5} design values in the Far Northern Region for the period 2001 to 2013. Note that the annual standard was lowered from 15 to 12 µg/m³ in 2013, and the 24-hour standard was lowered from 65 to 35 µg/m³ in 2006.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Inhalable Course Particles (PM₁₀)

PM₁₀ is monitored at seven locations in the WDNR network, shown in Figure 12 along with the maximum 24-hour averages from 2013. The network is made up of filter based and continuous monitors. The highest PM₁₀ concentrations are measured in urban areas.

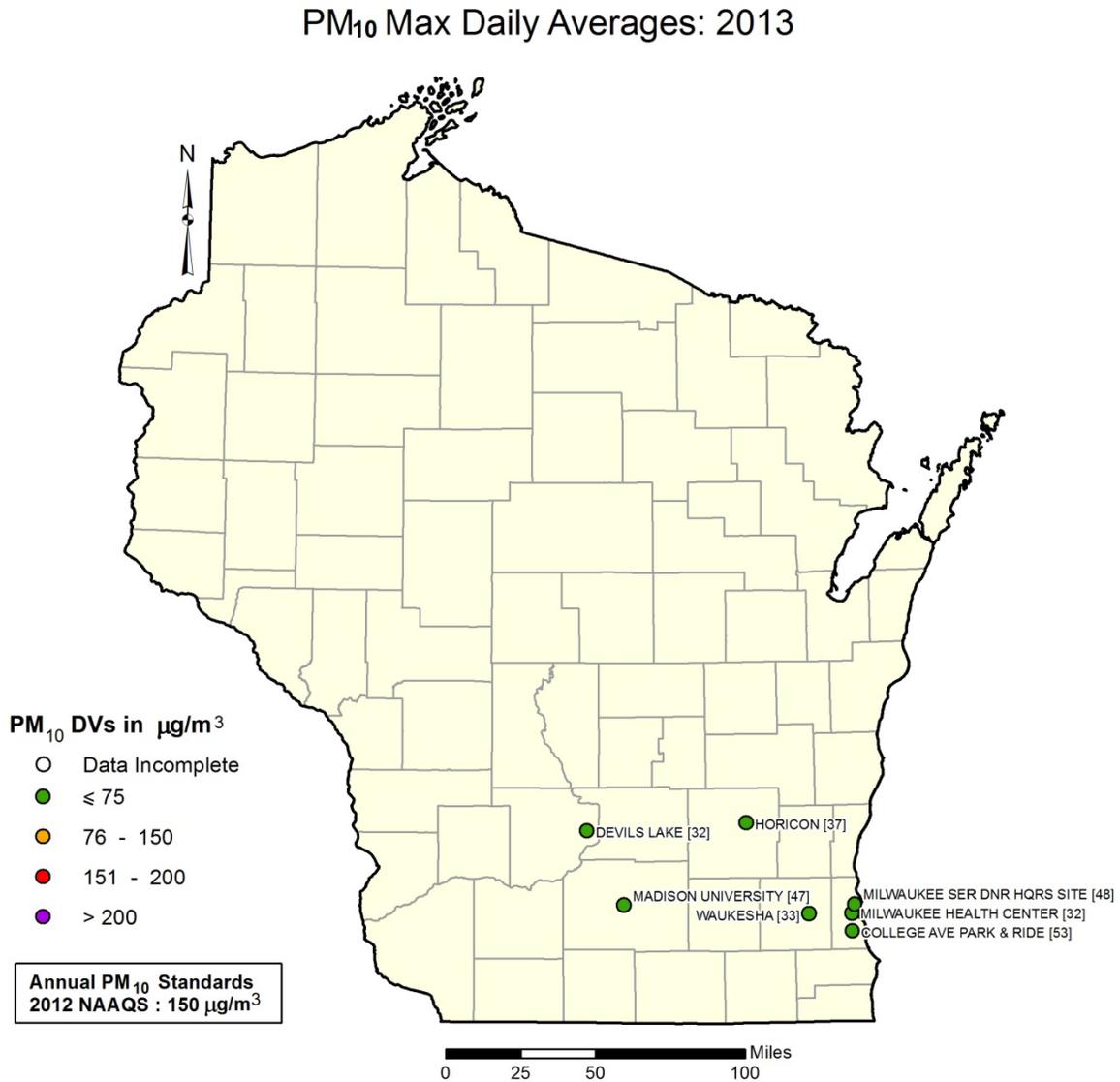


Figure 12. Maximum 24-hour averages of PM₁₀ in 2013.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Figure 13 shows maximum daily averages for each PM₁₀ monitoring location for the period 2001 to 2013. These maximums are compared to the NAAQS. A site violates the standard if its design value exceeds the standard level, 150 µg/m³, more than once per year, on average over three years. Concentrations of PM₁₀ generally decrease over time. Annual 24-hour maximums for all locations fall well below the NAAQS.

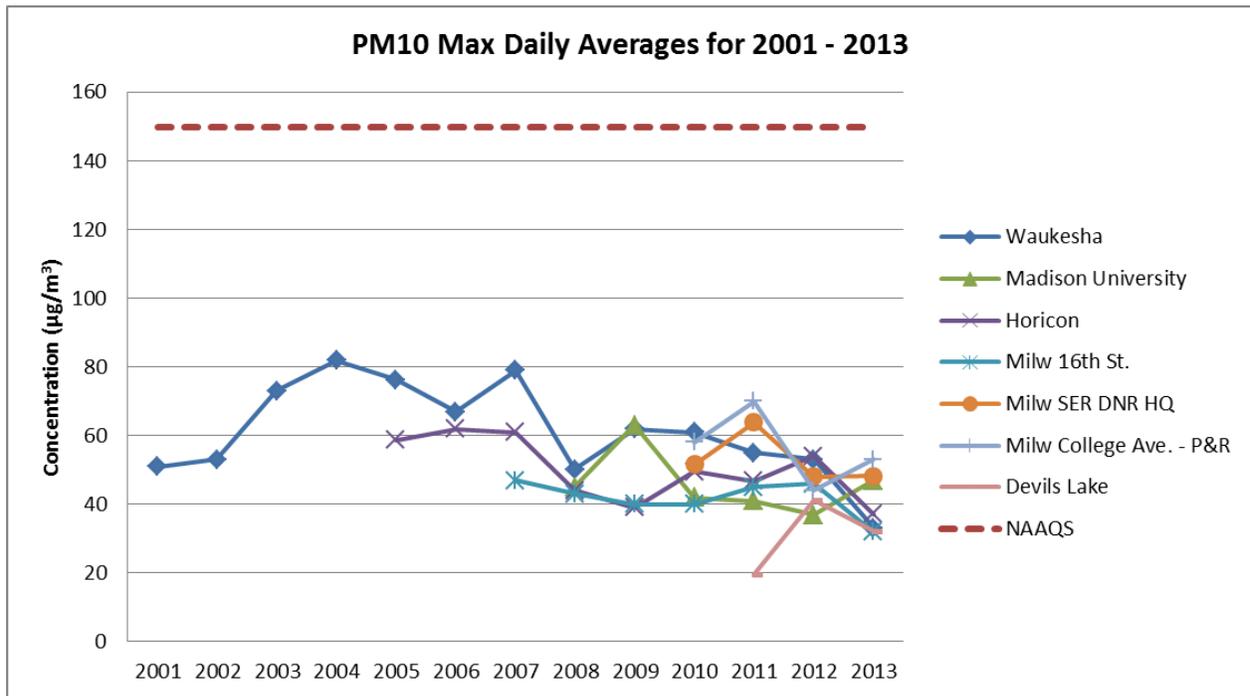


Figure 13. Maximum 24-hour averages of PM₁₀ for the period 2001 to 2013.

Some industrial sources in Wisconsin have a requirement in their permit to monitor for particulate matter. The majority of the industrial sources in Wisconsin with such a requirement are industrial sand facilities monitoring for PM₁₀. WDNR quality assures this data and places it on a webpage for viewing. To access this PM₁₀ monitoring data, use the following link:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Mines/AQSandMap.html>

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

WDNR operates six monitors that measure sulfur dioxide (SO₂), as shown in Figure 14 along with annual design values. These data are compared against the hourly NAAQS of 75 ppb. In Wisconsin, most SO₂ is produced from combustion at power plants and industrial boilers, while secondary sources include industrial processes such as pulp and paper production.

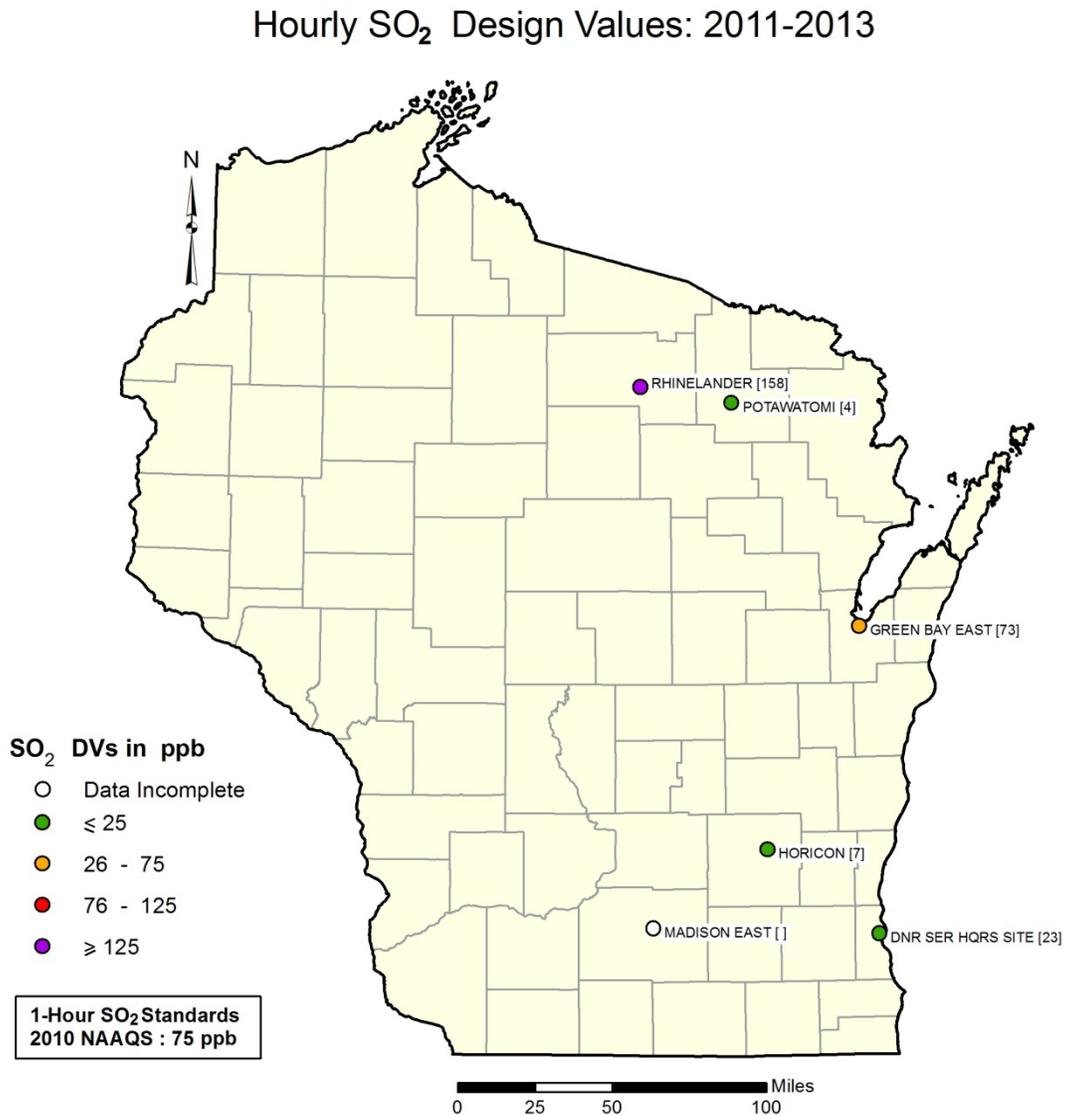


Figure 14. SO₂ monitoring locations and design values for the period 2011 to 2013.

Figure 15 shows hourly design values for SO₂ since 2004 at four of the six monitoring locations where data is available. The Madison East monitoring station in Dane County is not shown because it began

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

monitoring in 2013, and thus has not collected sufficient data to calculate a 3-year design value. The Horicon monitoring results are not shown because there are only two design values for this site (2012 and 2013).

It is important to note that the 24-hour and annual SO₂ standards were replaced with a 1-hour standard in 2010. To provide a clearer picture of trends in SO₂ concentrations over time, 1-hour design values were calculated for years prior to 2010, even though the design values preceding 2010 are not used to assess NAAQS compliance.

The Horicon and Potawatomi sites observed very low concentrations of SO₂, as did the Milwaukee SER HQ site in 2013. Available design values from the Green Bay East site are all close to, but do not exceed, the 2010 1-hour NAAQS. The Rhinelander monitor has exceeded the NAAQS since it was established, and as a result, a portion of Oneida County is in nonattainment for the 2010 SO₂ standard.

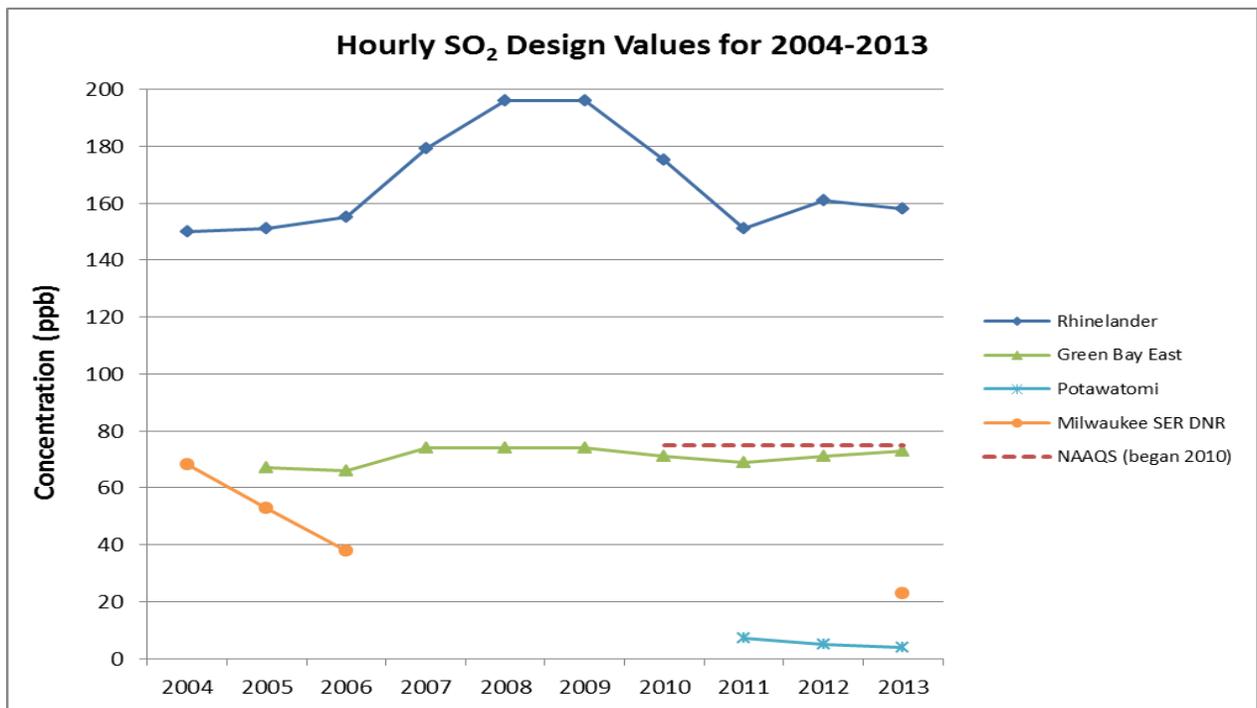


Figure 15. Hourly SO₂ design values for the period 2004 to 2013. Note that the 75 ppb hourly NAAQS was established in 2010, replacing the 24-hour and annual standards.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Four monitors measure nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in the WDNR network and are compared against annual and 1-hour NAAQS. Figure 16 and Figure 17 show monitoring locations for NO₂, along with annual and 1-hour design values, respectively. NO₂ is emitted by all combustion sources, including vehicles, home and commercial heating systems and power plants.

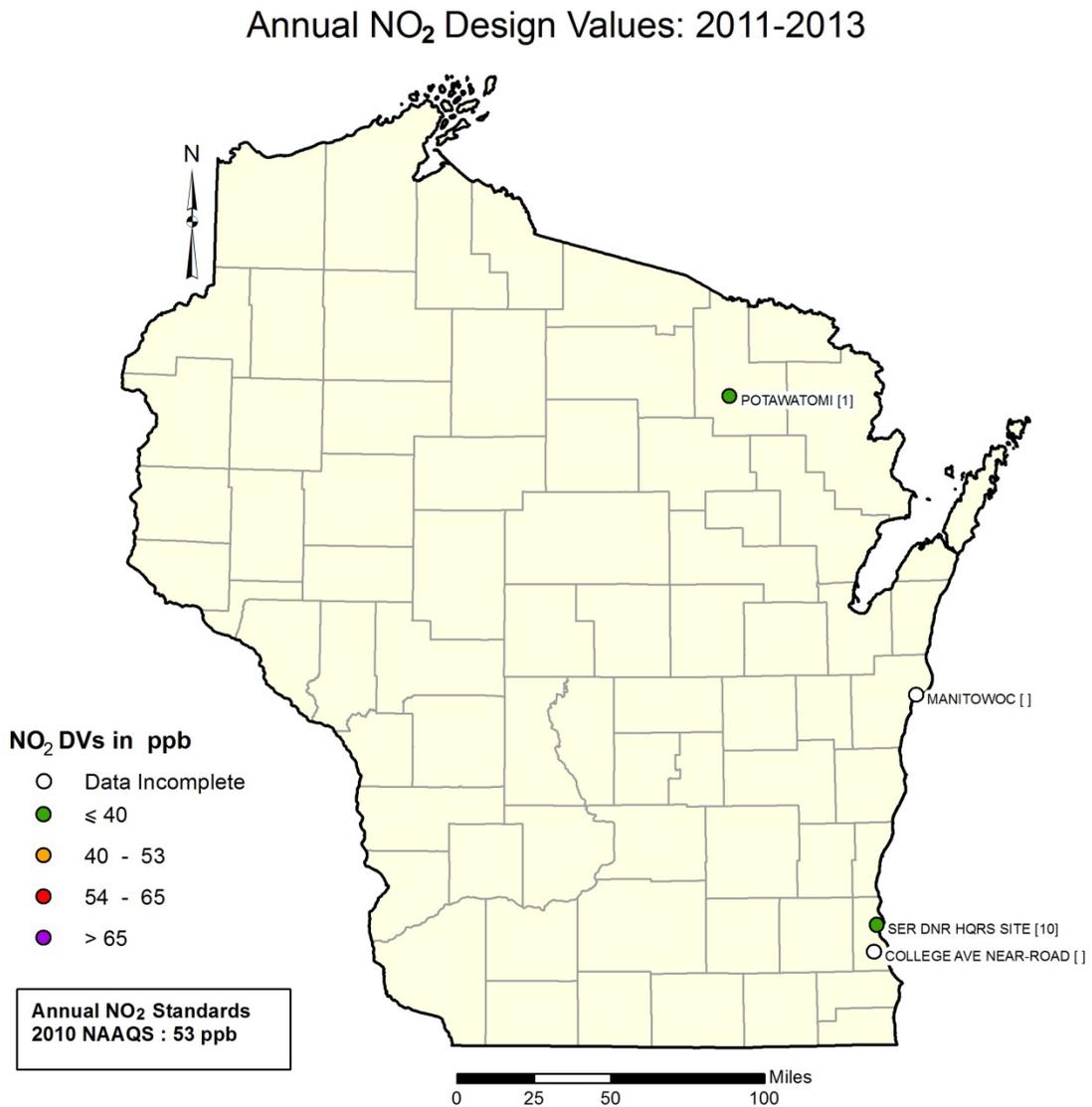


Figure 16. NO₂ monitoring locations and annual design values for the period 2011 to 2013.

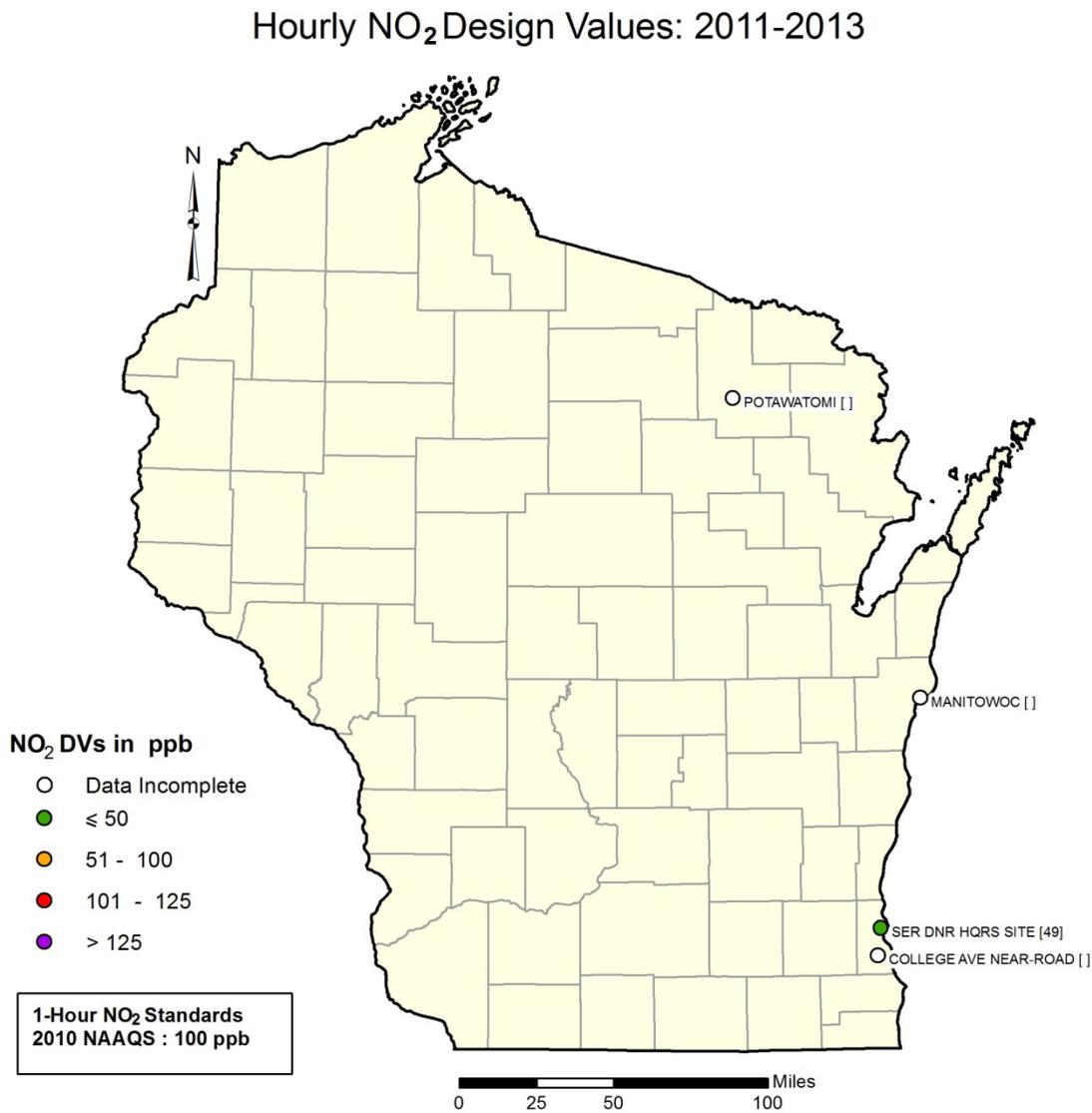


Figure 17. NO₂ monitoring locations and 1-hour design values for the period 2011 to 2013.

Figure 18 shows annual and hourly NO₂ design values for the Milwaukee SER station. The Milwaukee College Ave – NR site is not included because it only began monitoring in 2014, and values for Potawatomi are not shown because this site only has two design values (2012 and 2013). In addition, the Manitowoc site collects data for only part of the year and therefore does not generate enough data to calculate a design value.

Monitored levels of NO₂ are very low, and the annual design values at the Milwaukee SER location are decreasing. Hourly design values have remained steady for the past few years at Milwaukee SER.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

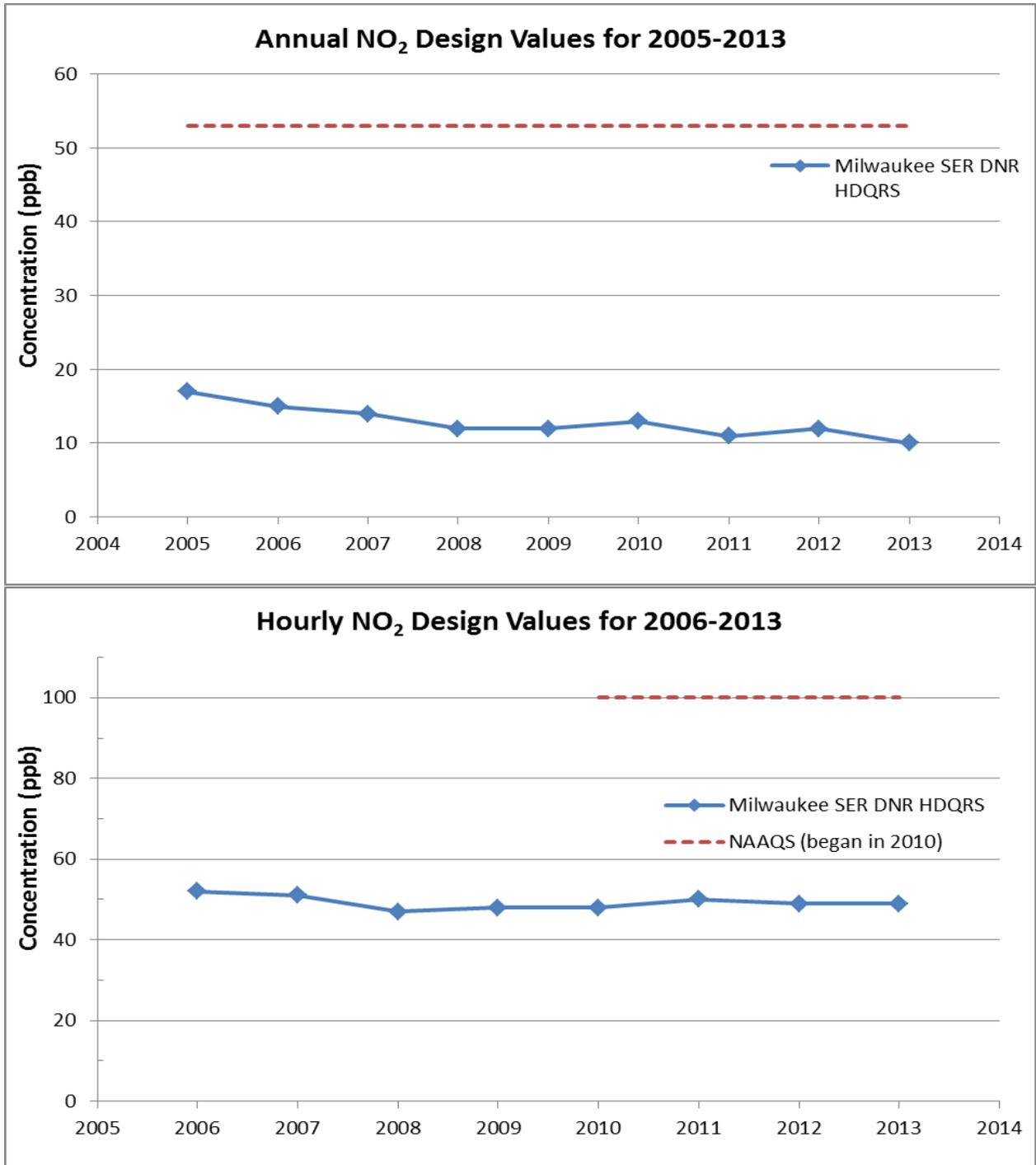


Figure 18. Annual (top) and hourly (bottom) design values for NO₂ for the period 2004 to 2013.

Lead (Pb)

By federal rule, lead is measured for comparison to the NAAQS at two locations; one at Horicon in Dodge County and the other at the Kohler monitoring station in Sheboygan County (Figure 19). Lead is emitted primarily as the result of industrial processes such as metallic processing, power plants, and waste incinerators. The NAAQS is based on a rolling 3-month average, which is not to exceed $0.15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and the design value is expressed as the maximum 3-month average over a 3-year period. There are no complete design values yet for either the Horicon or Kohler site, but the locations of the lead monitors are shown in Figure 19. All 3-month average values at the Horicon and Kohler sites meet the lead NAAQS.

3-Month Lead Design Values: 2011-2013

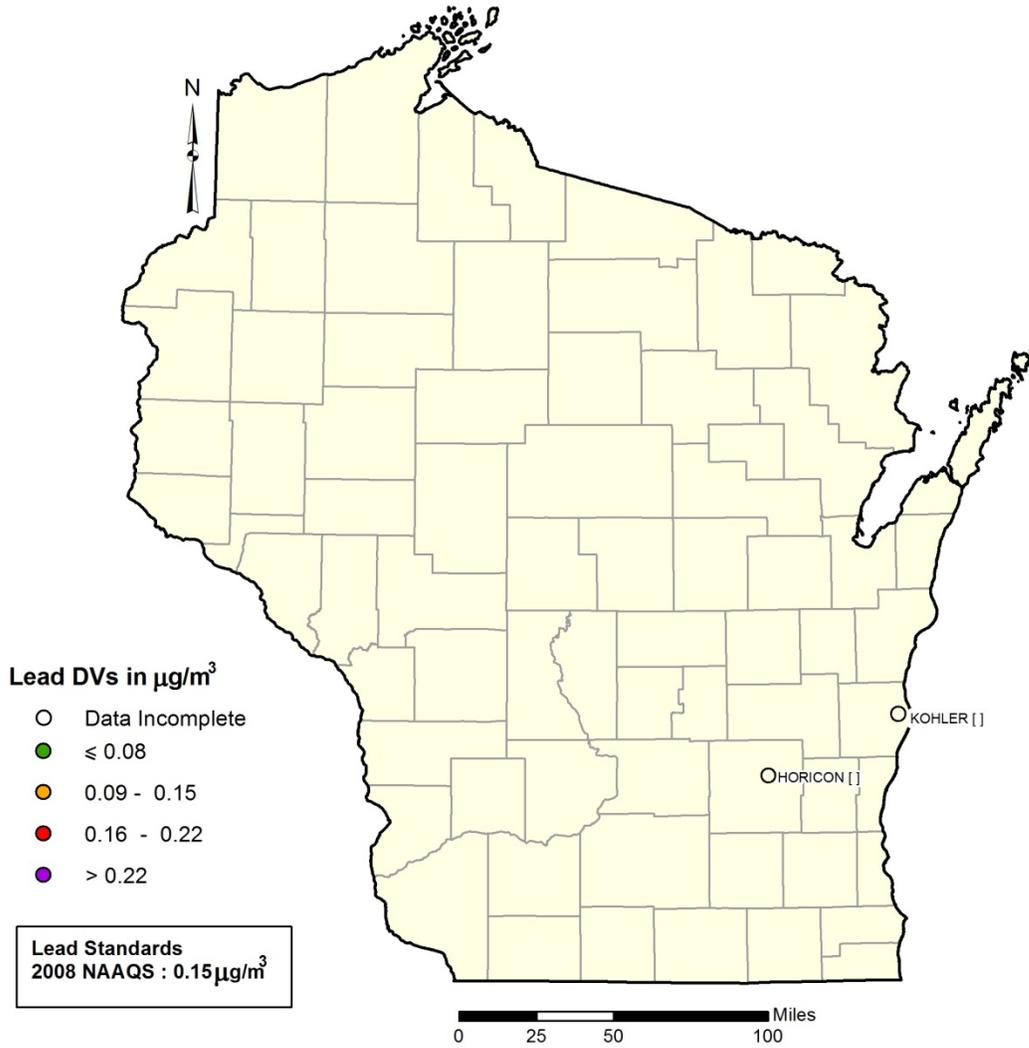


Figure 19. Lead monitoring locations, shown but there are no complete design values.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide (CO) is monitored at two locations, as shown in Figure 20. The main source of this pollutant is motor vehicle emissions, and as a result, higher concentrations will be observed in urban areas. Nationwide, levels of CO have decreased over the past two decades with the help of emission control technologies, and as a result no areas currently violate federal standards. Standards for CO are expressed in 8-hour and 1-hour averages.

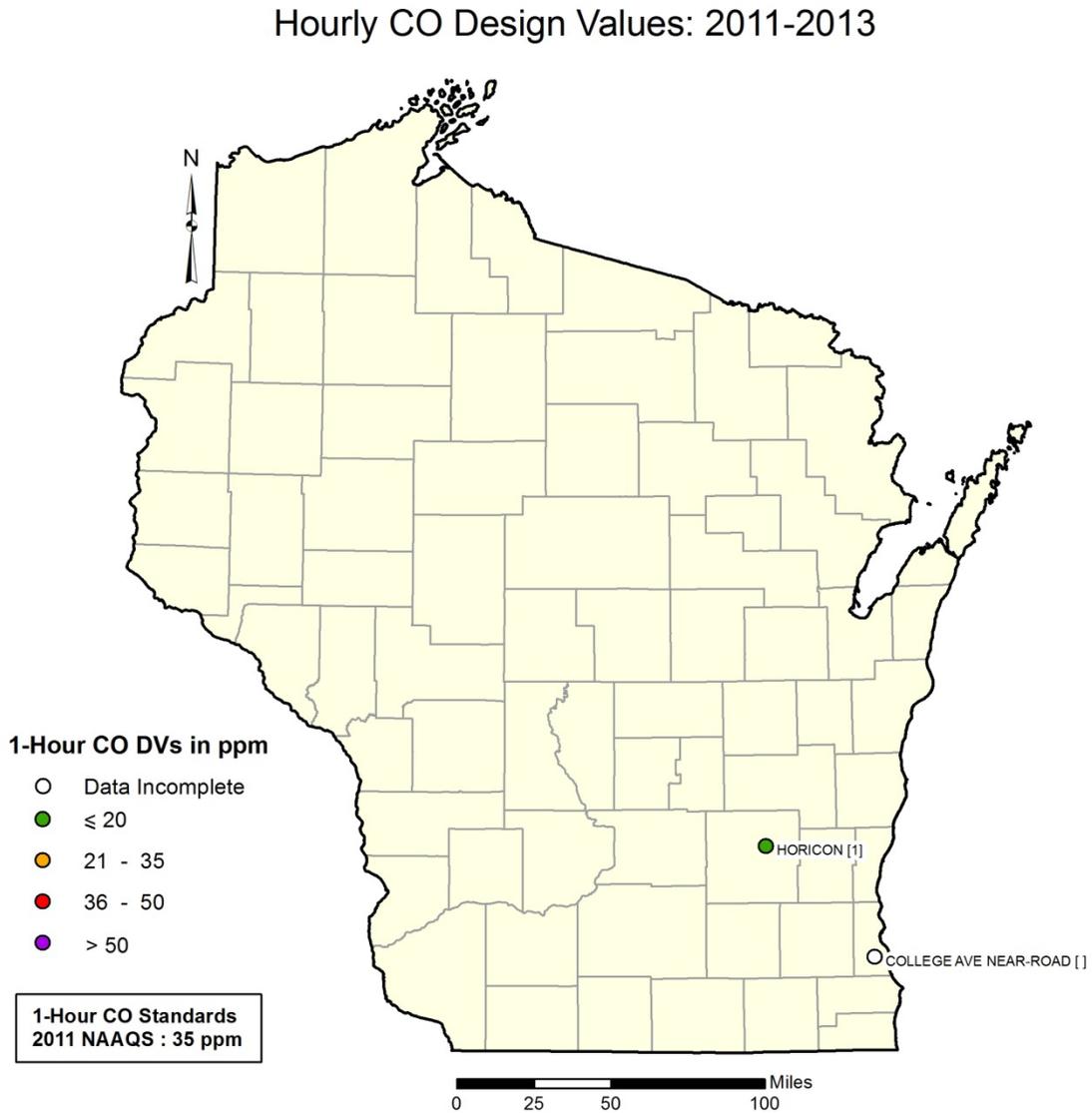


Figure 20. CO monitoring locations.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Figure 21 shows hourly CO design values at the Horicon monitoring station over the period 2010 to 2013. The values are extremely low, almost indistinguishable from zero. Values from the Milwaukee College Ave – Near Road monitor are not shown, because the station began collecting data in 2014, as required by federal rule.

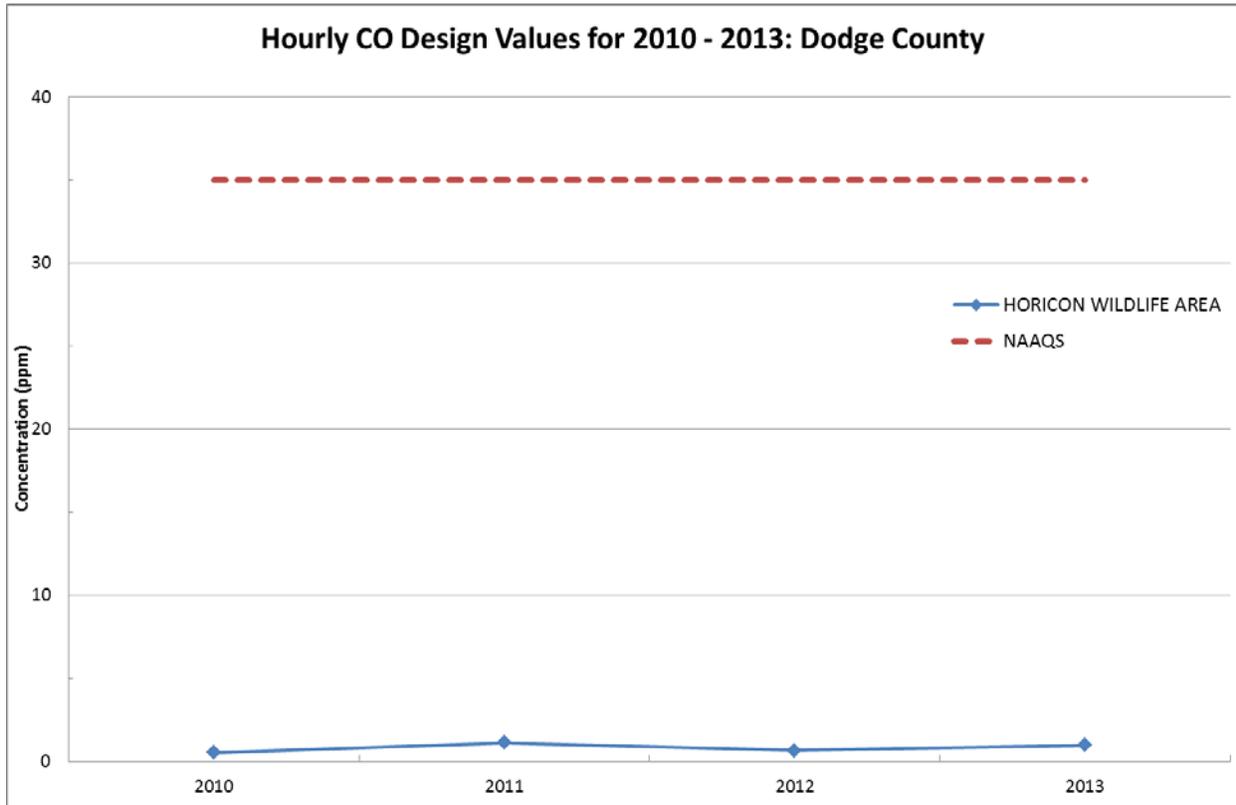
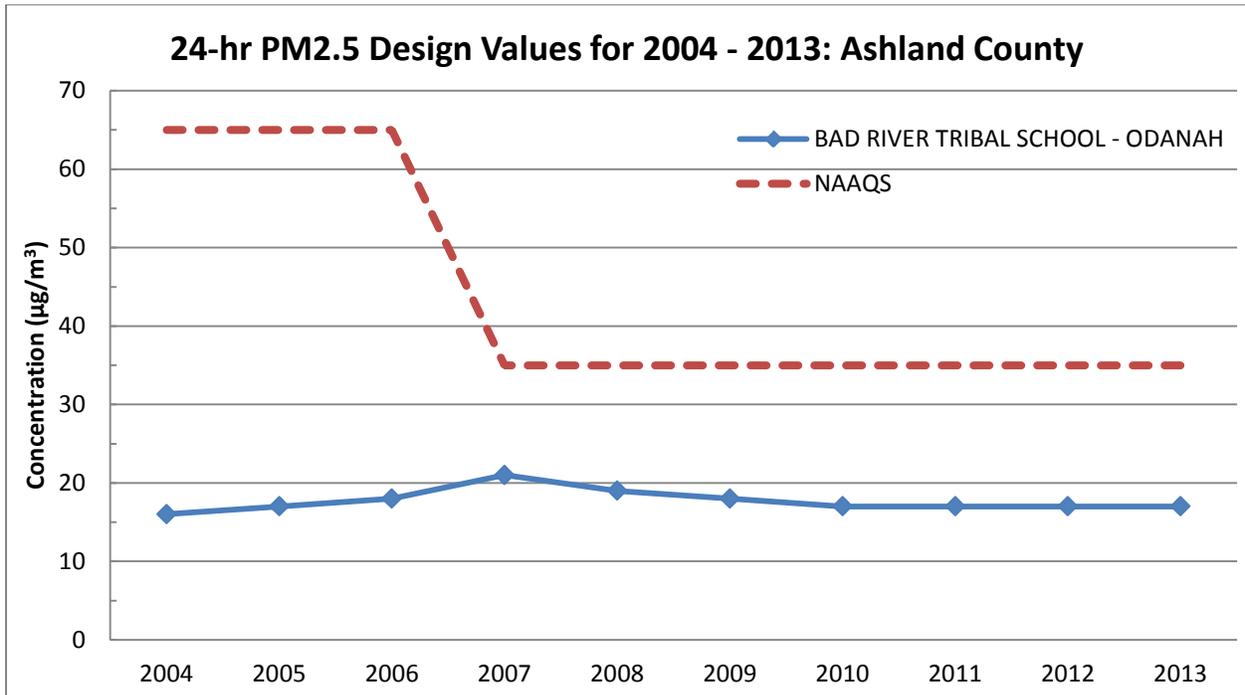


Figure 21. Hourly design values for CO at the Horicon monitoring station over the period 2010 to 2013.

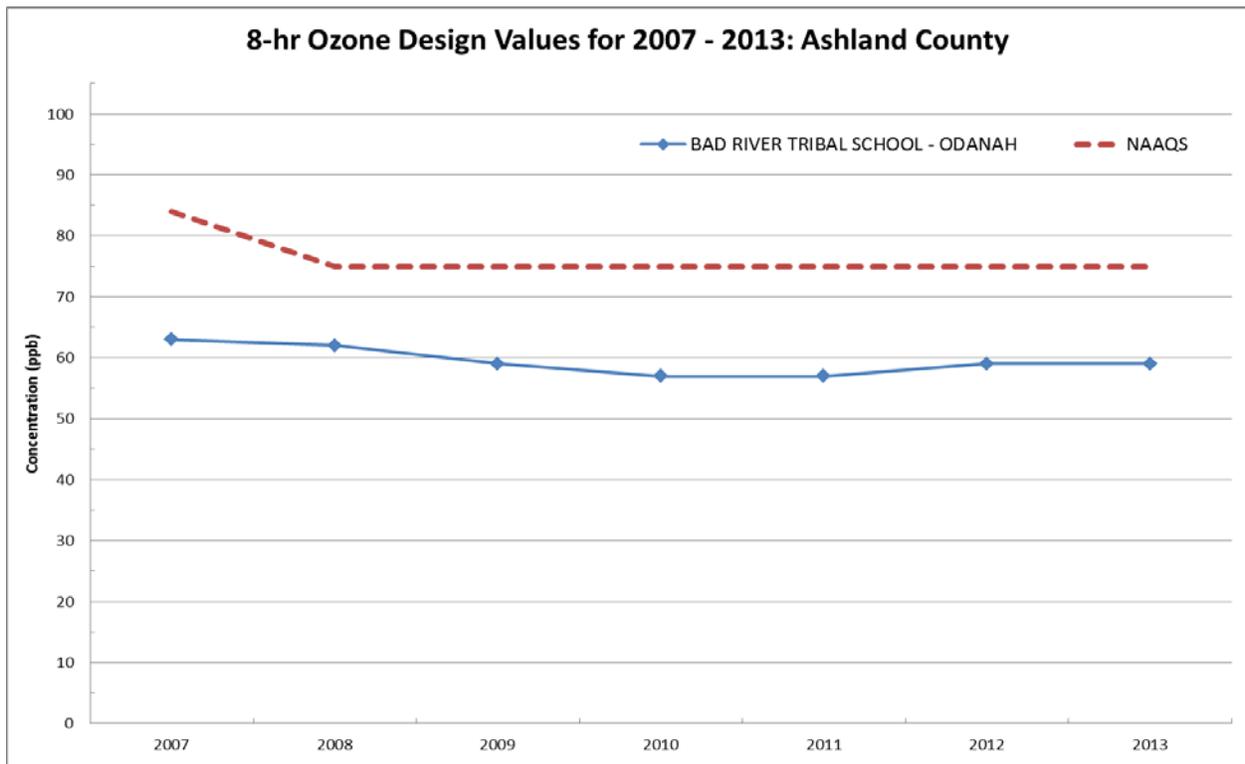
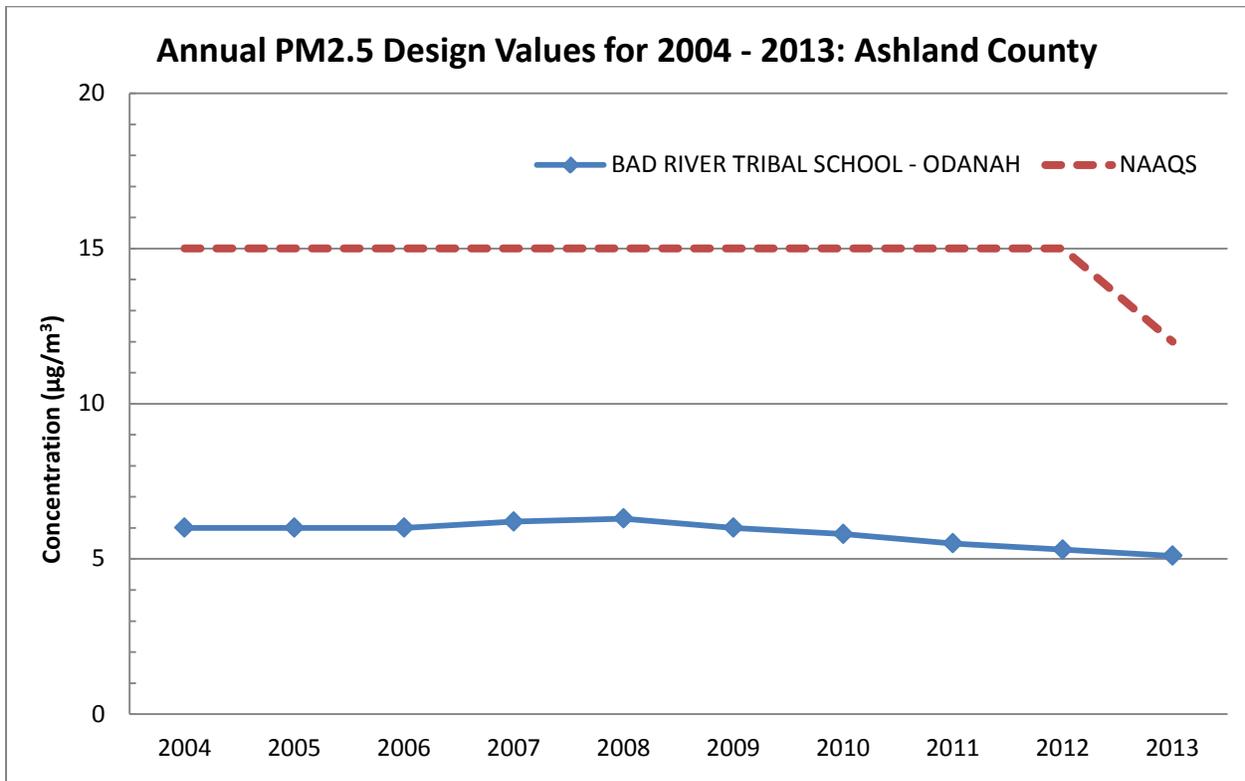
Appendix A. – Air Quality by County

Ashland County

Sampling for PM_{2.5} and ozone is conducted at the Bad River Tribal School in Odanah.



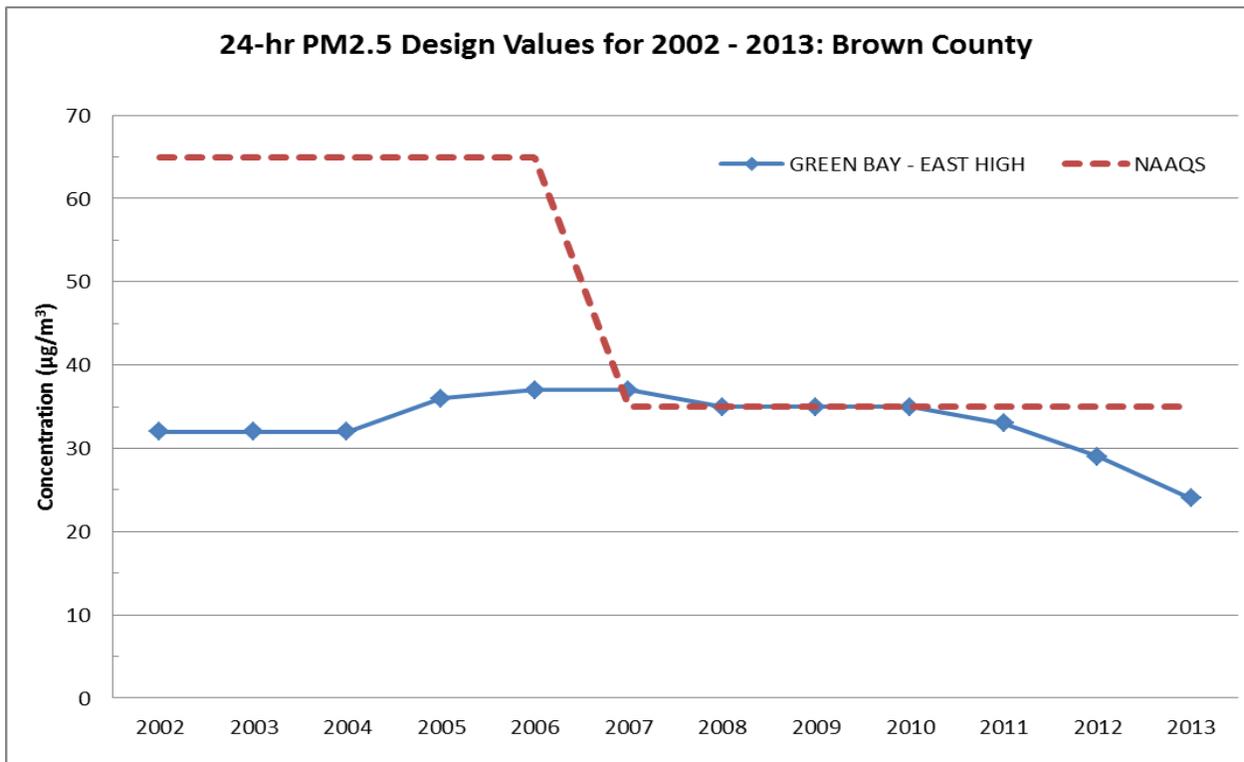
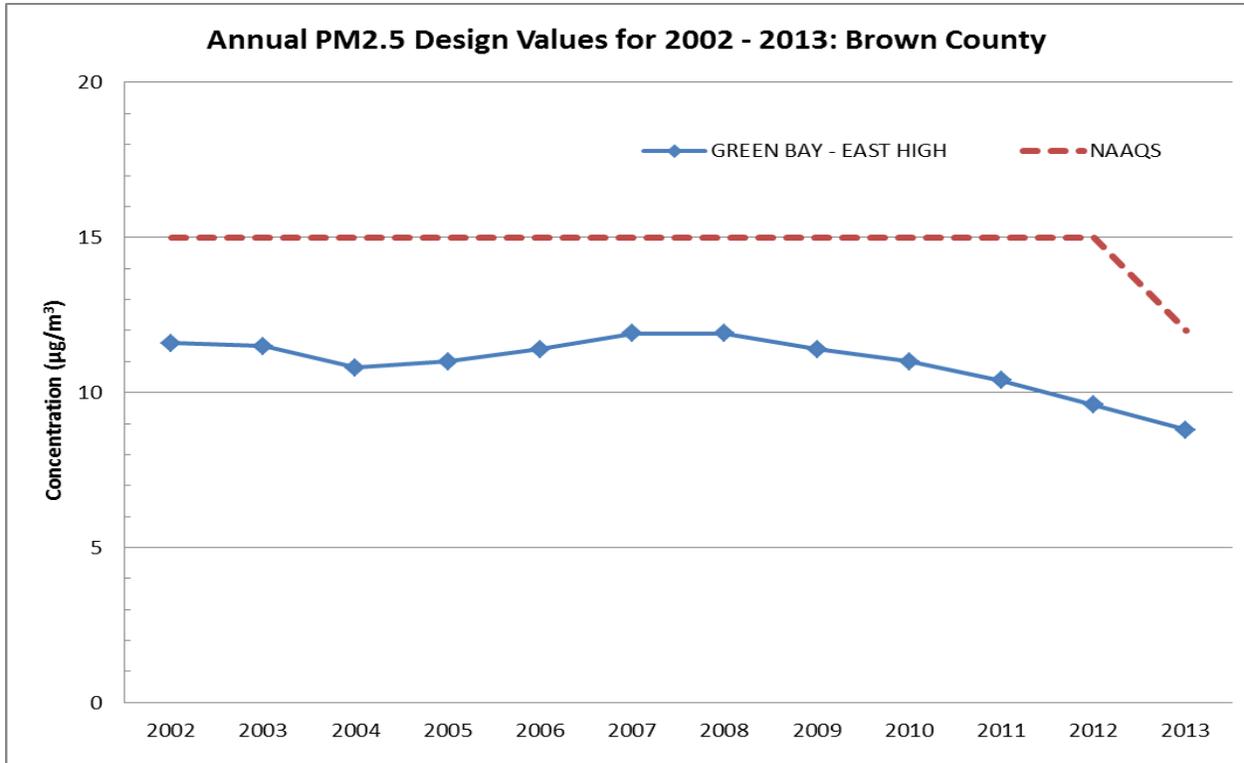
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



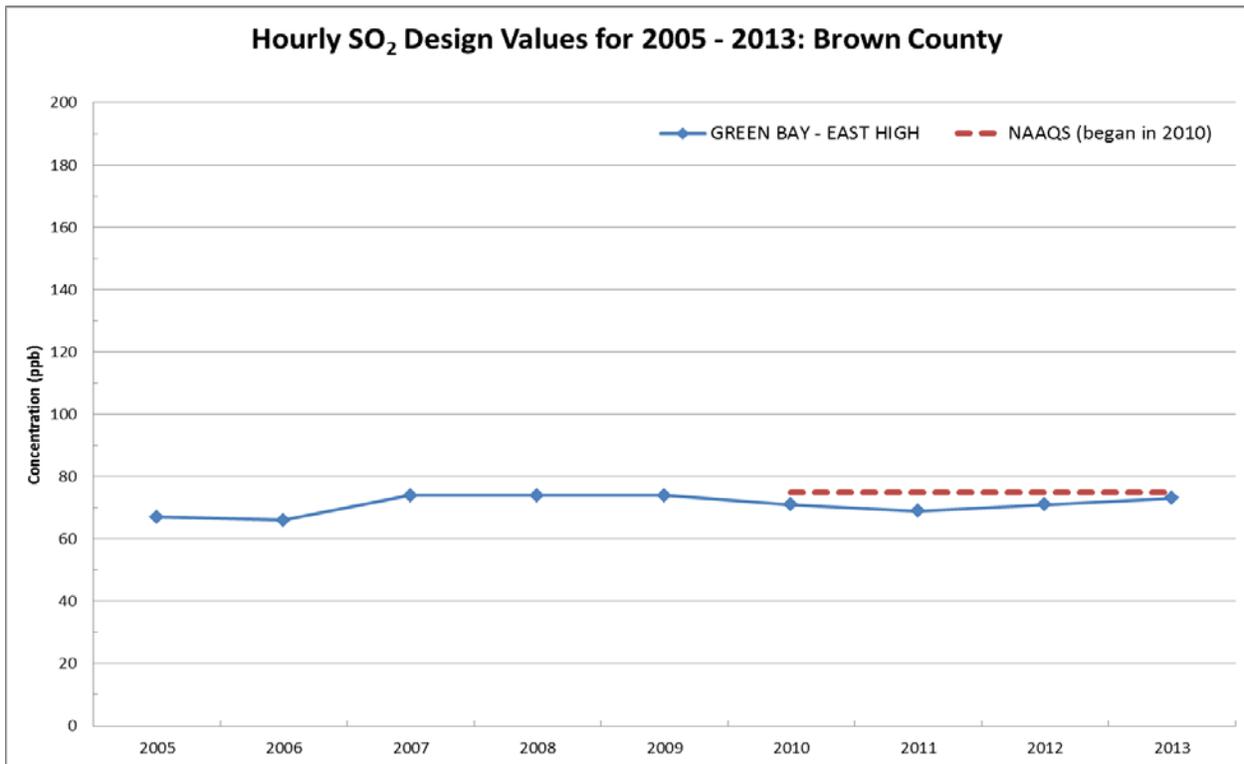
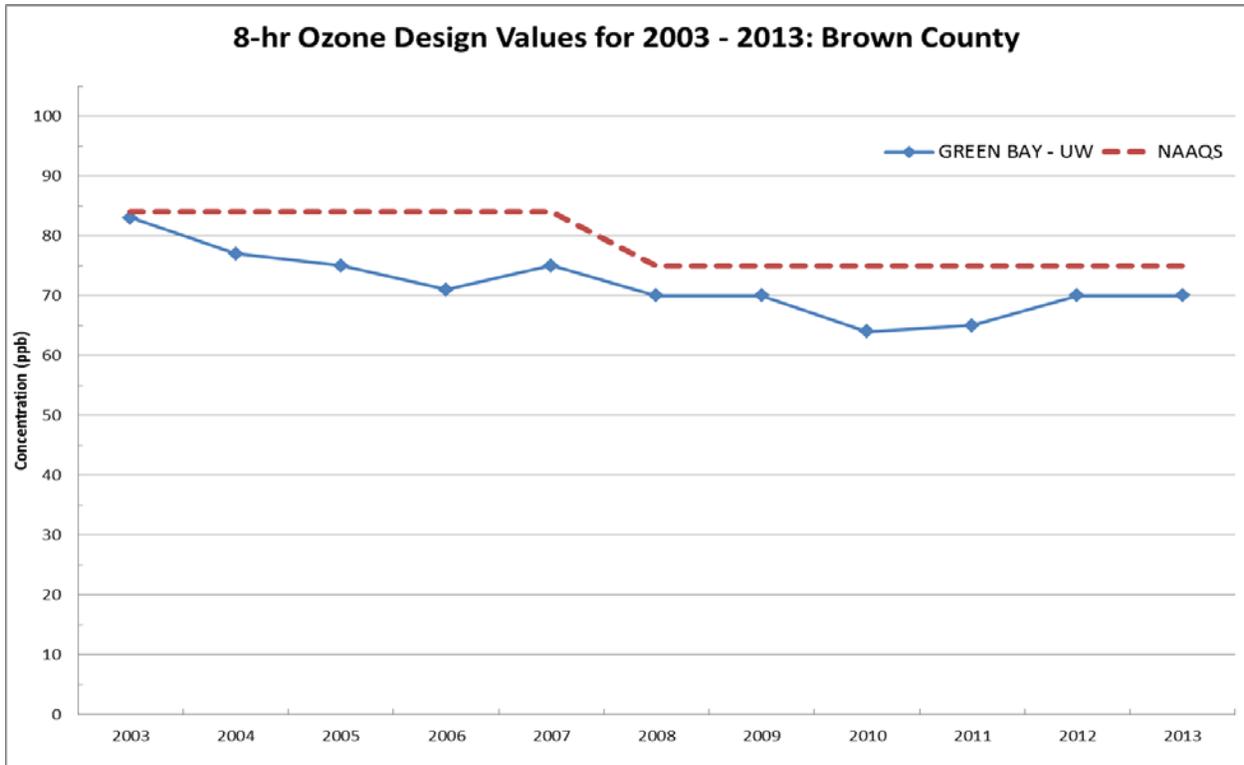
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Brown County

PM_{2.5} and SO₂ monitoring in Brown County is conducted at Green Bay East High School, located at 1415 East Walnut Street. Ozone monitoring in Brown County takes place at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

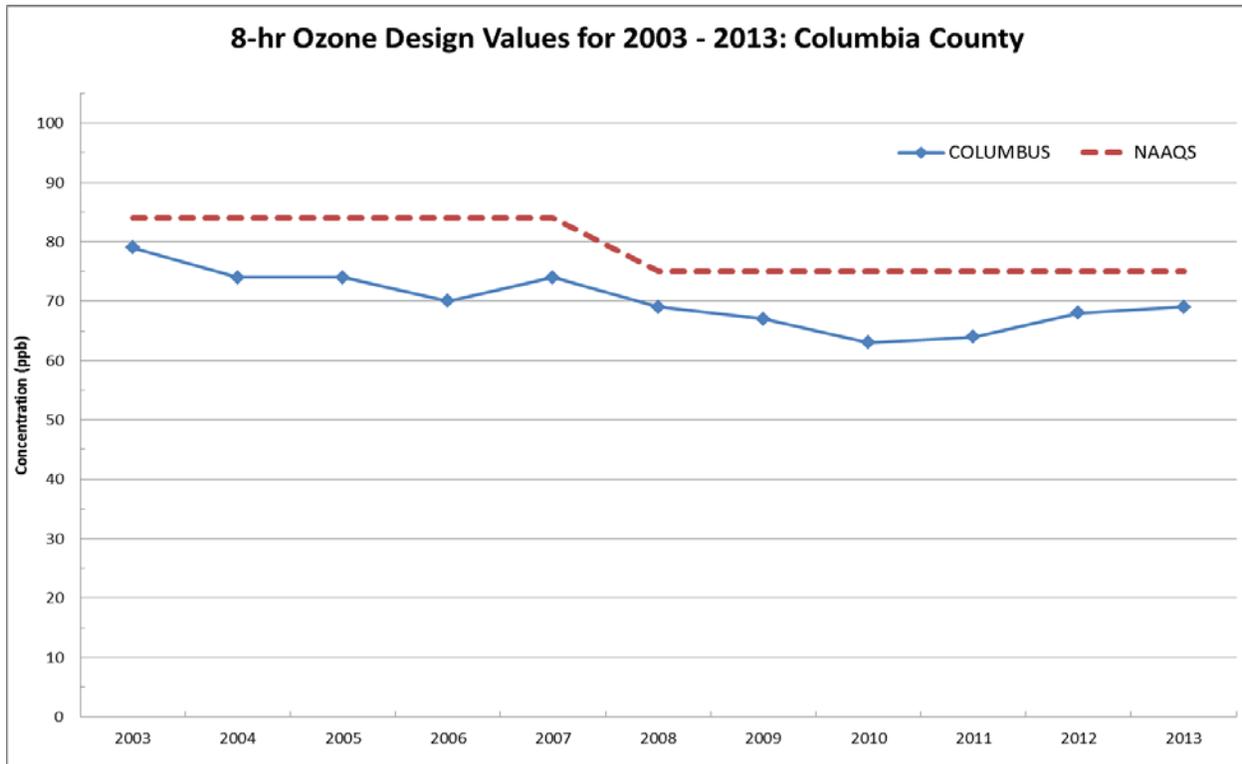


SO₂ plot: The EPA established a 1-hour SO₂ standard in 2010 that replaced the previous 24-hour and annual standards.

Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Columbia County

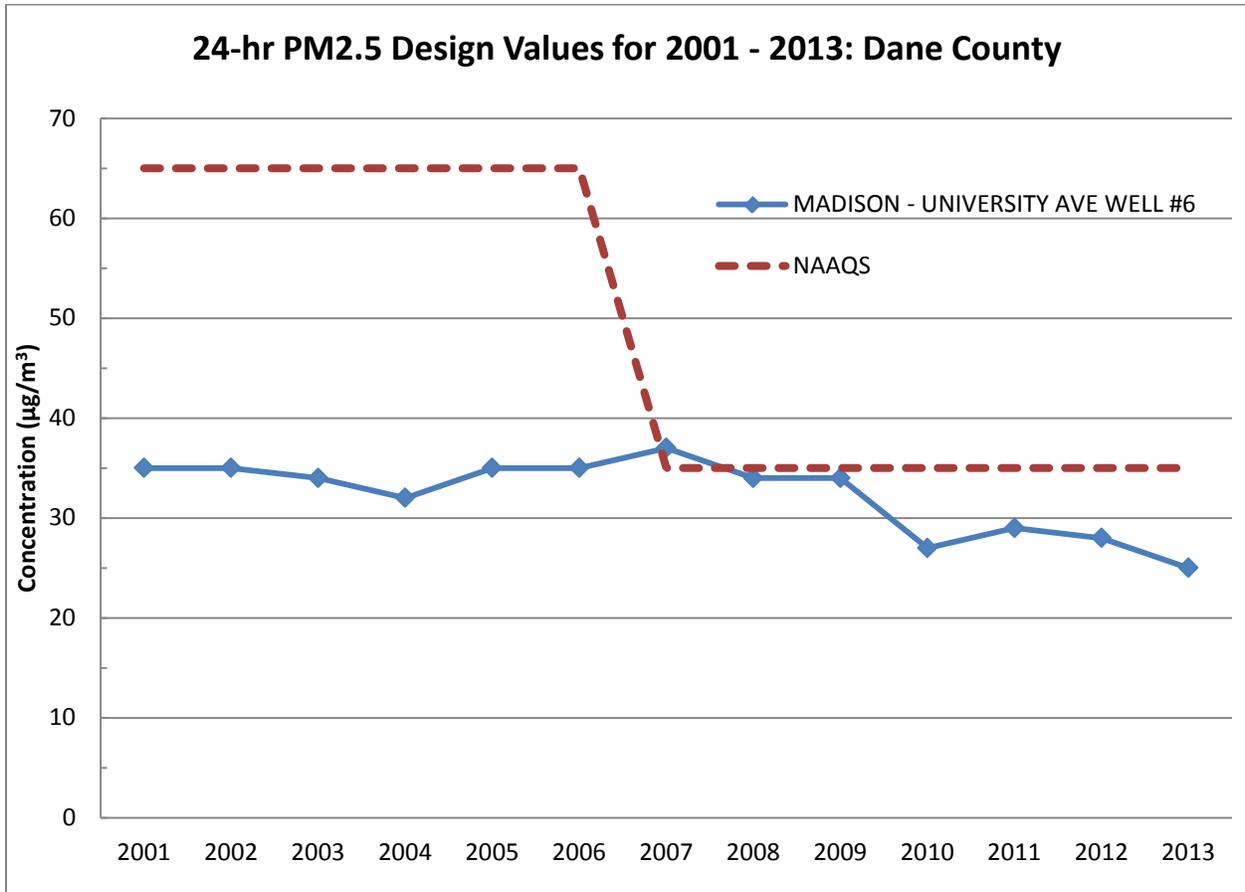
Ozone monitoring in Columbia County takes place at a rural location on Wendt Road in Columbus Township. The ozone monitor serves as the downwind ozone instrument in the Madison CBSA.



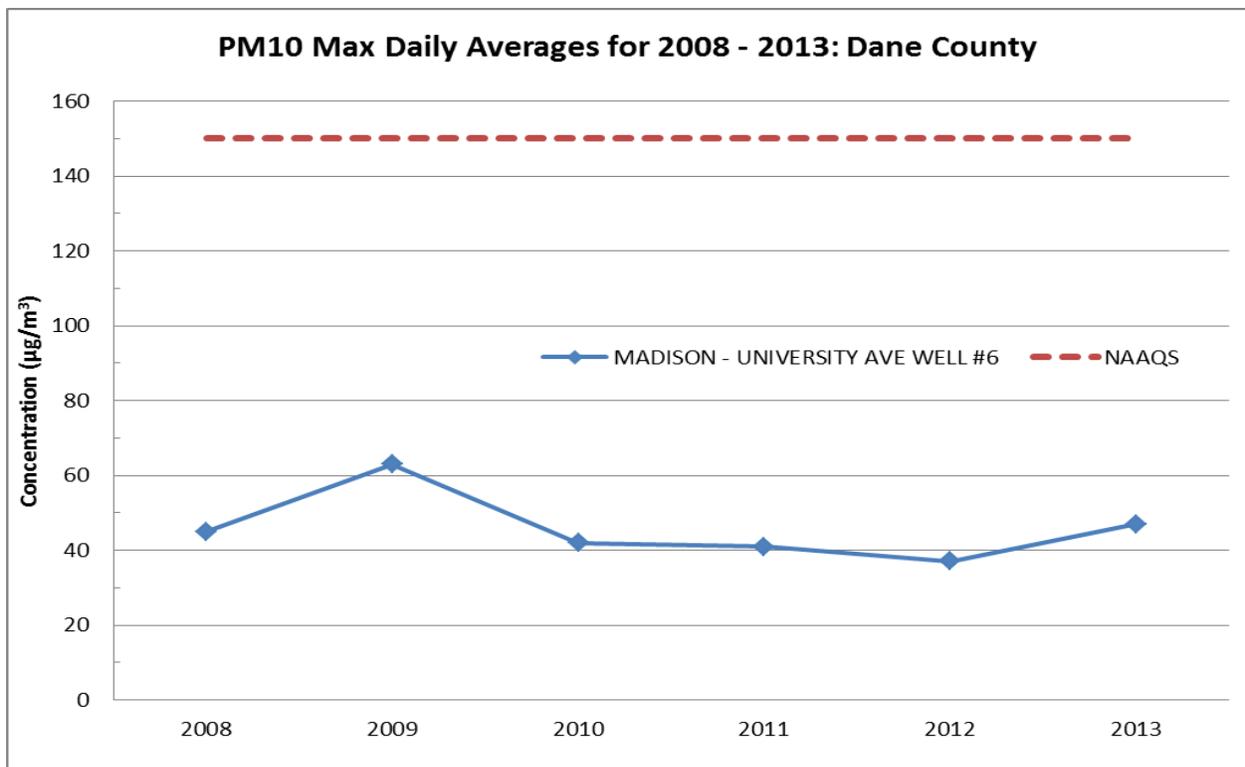
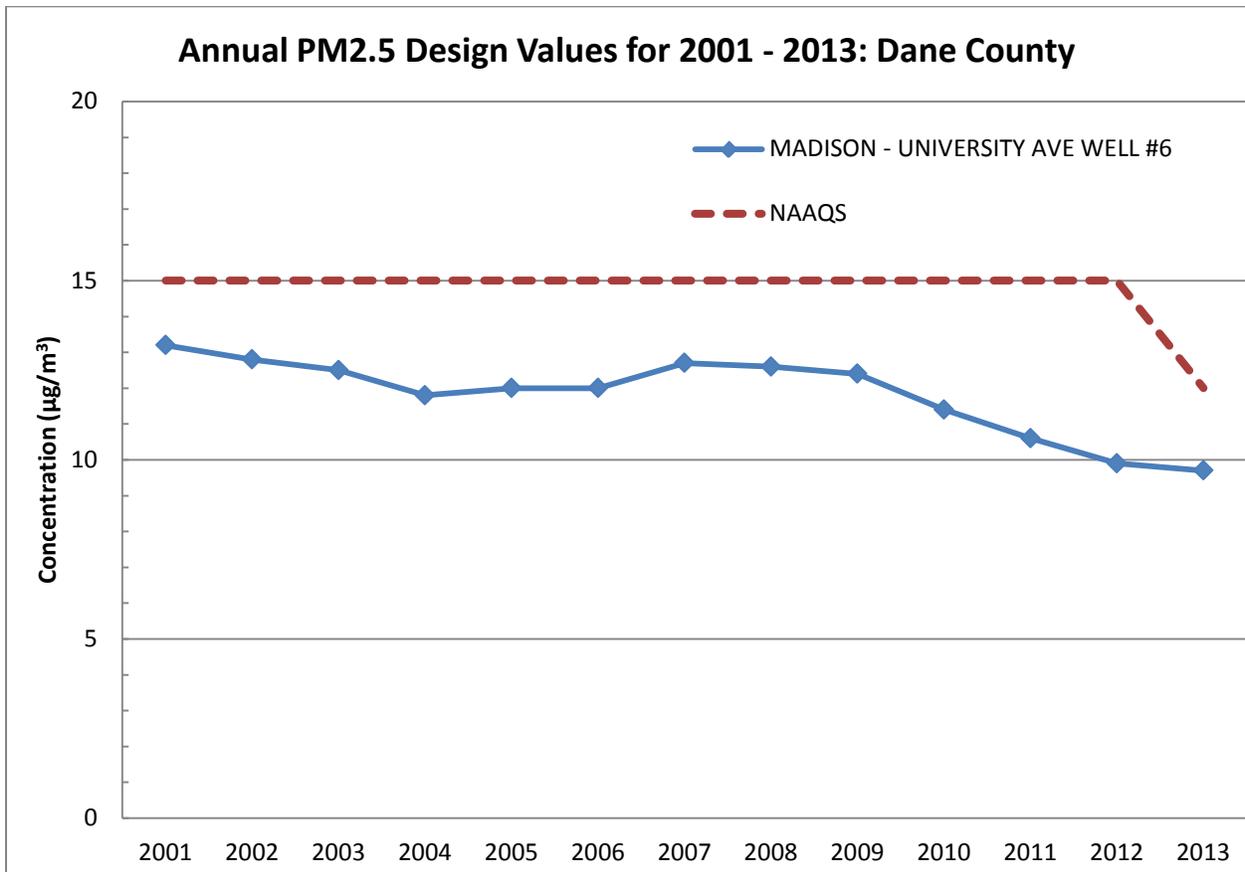
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Dane County

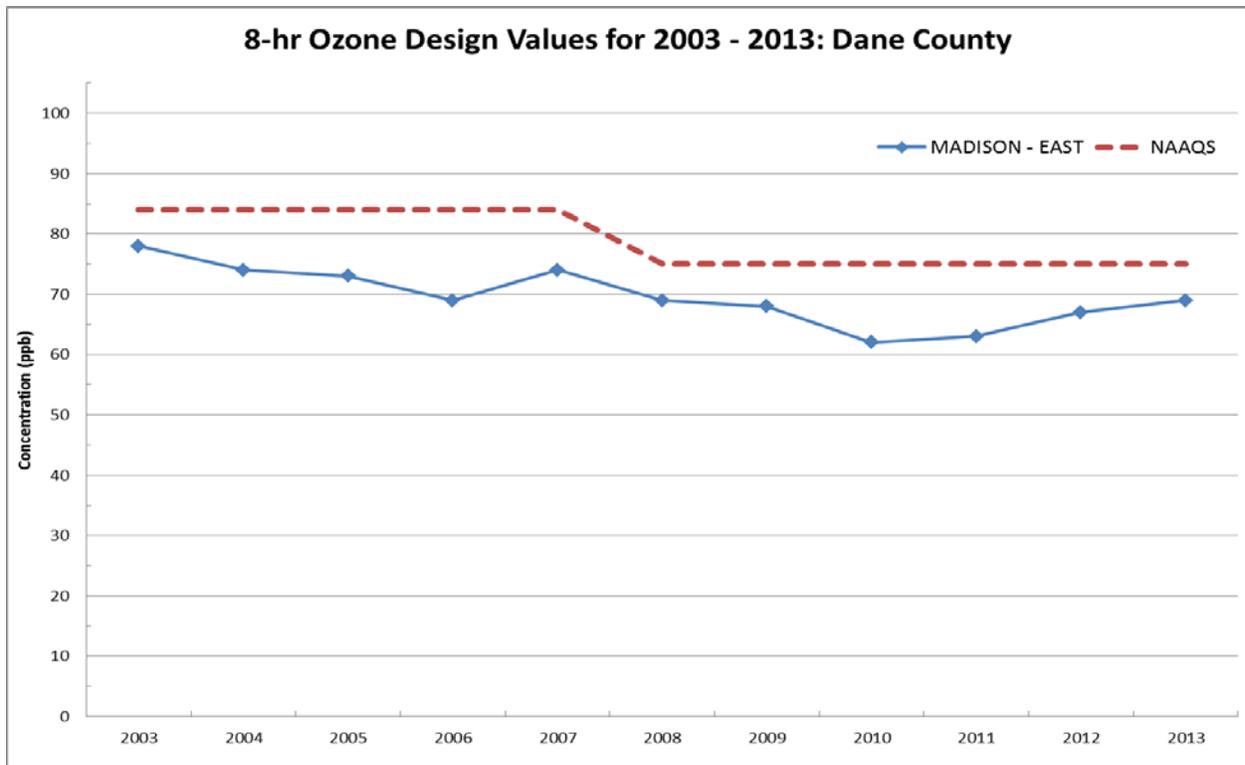
PM_{2.5} monitoring in Dane County is currently conducted at Madison East High School and Madison – University Avenue. However, the Madison-East site does not currently have enough years data to meet the criteria for PM_{2.5} design value calculation. The Madison East site is located at 2302 North Hoard Street, next to the Madison East High School Sports Field. The University Avenue site is at 2757 University Avenue. Ozone monitoring takes place at Madison East High School.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



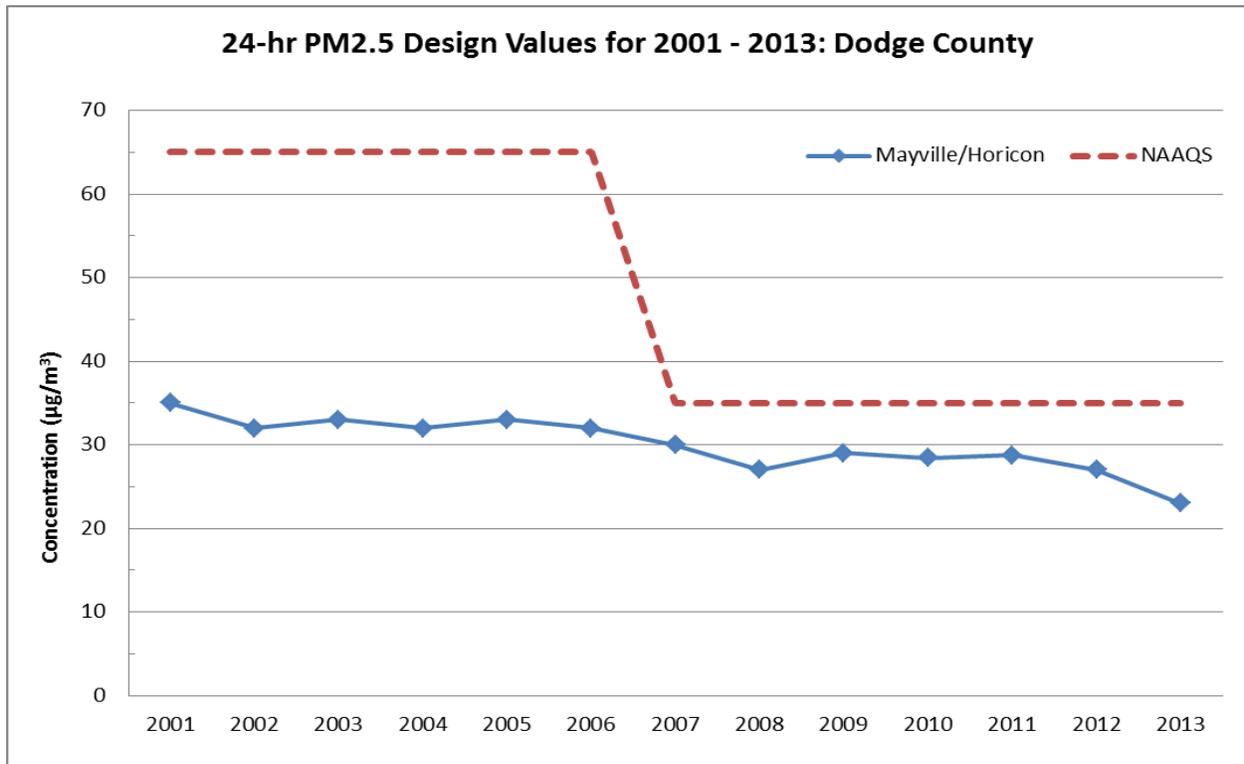
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



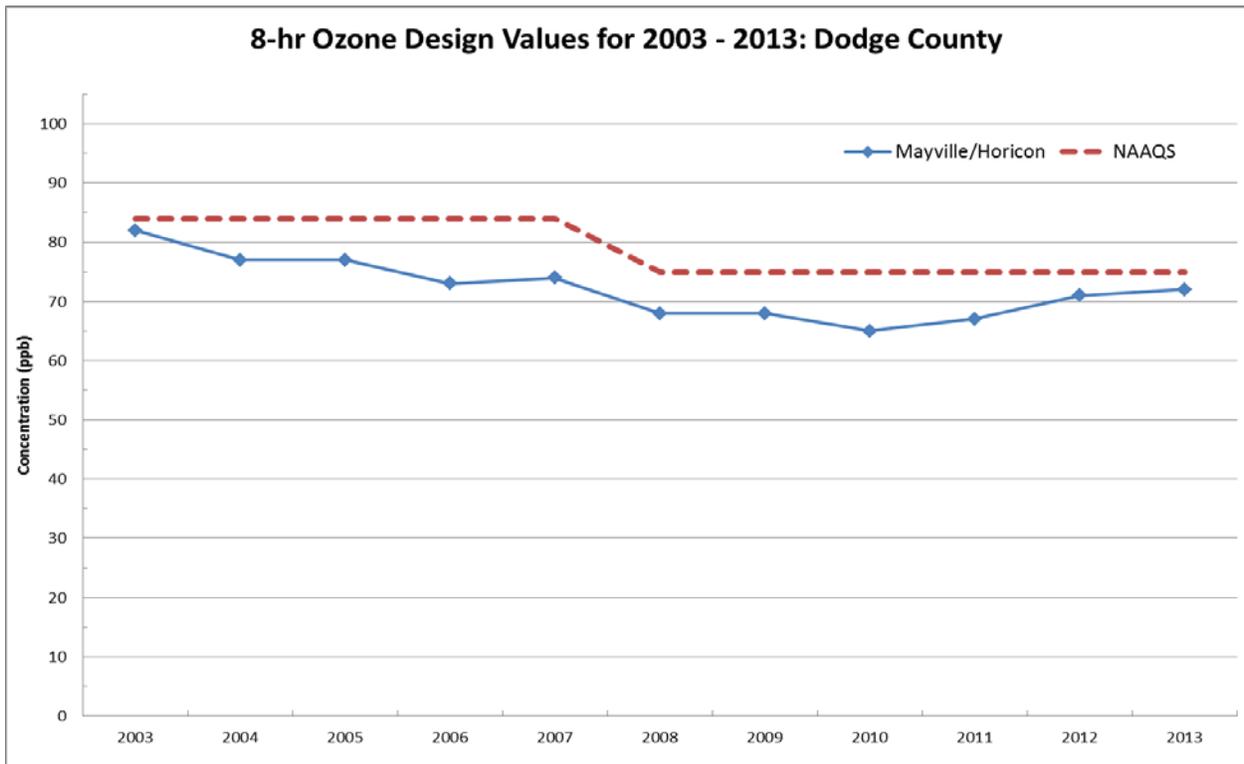
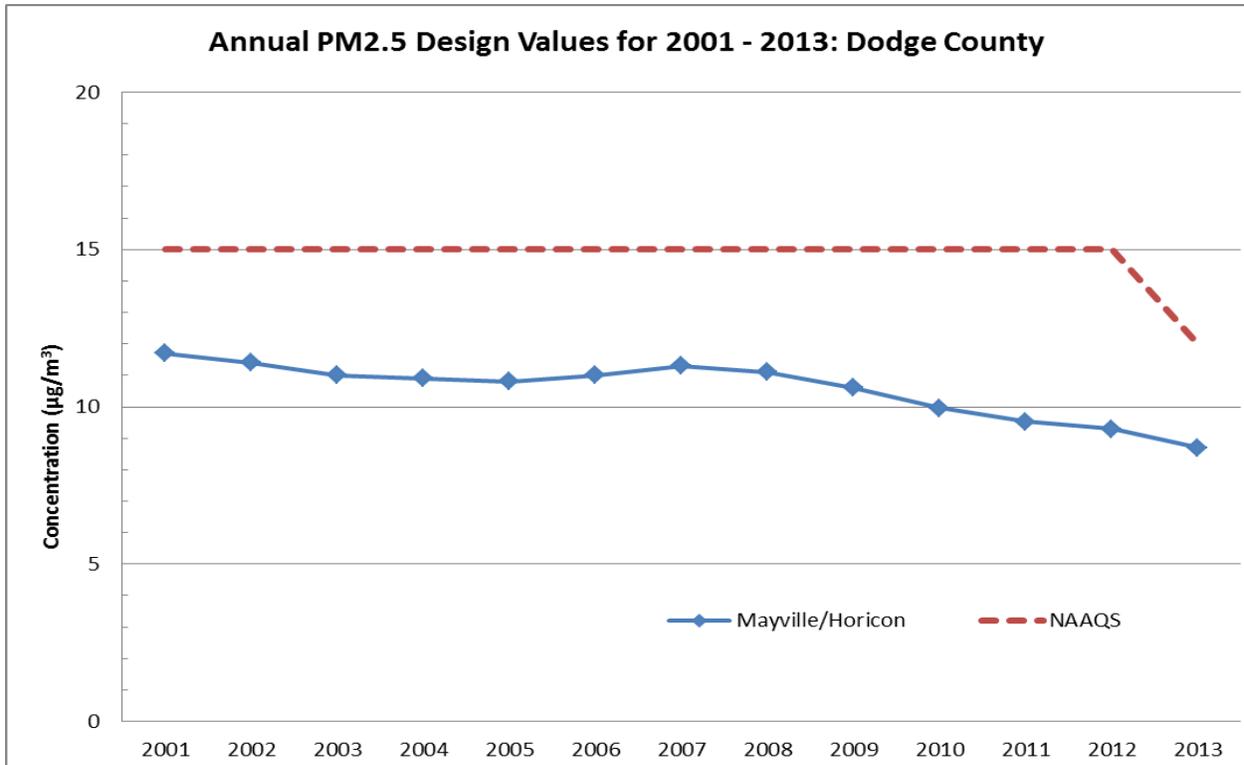
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Dodge County

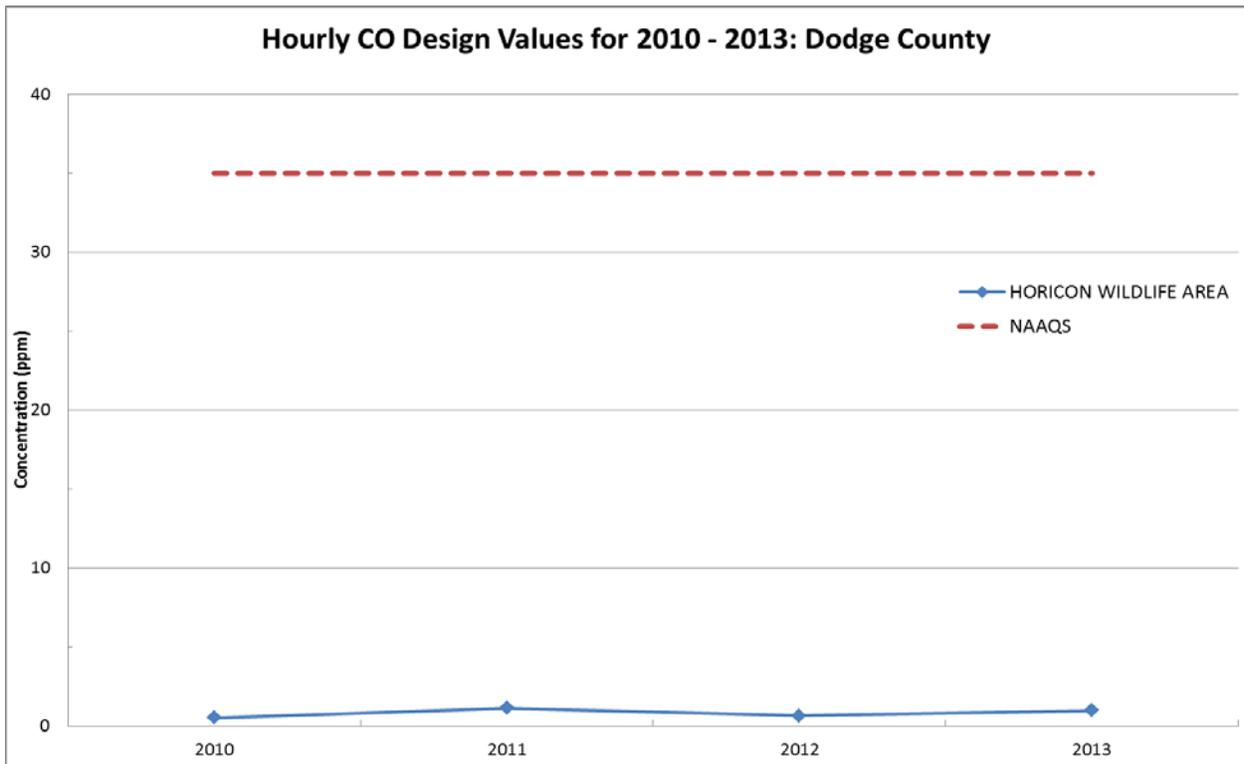
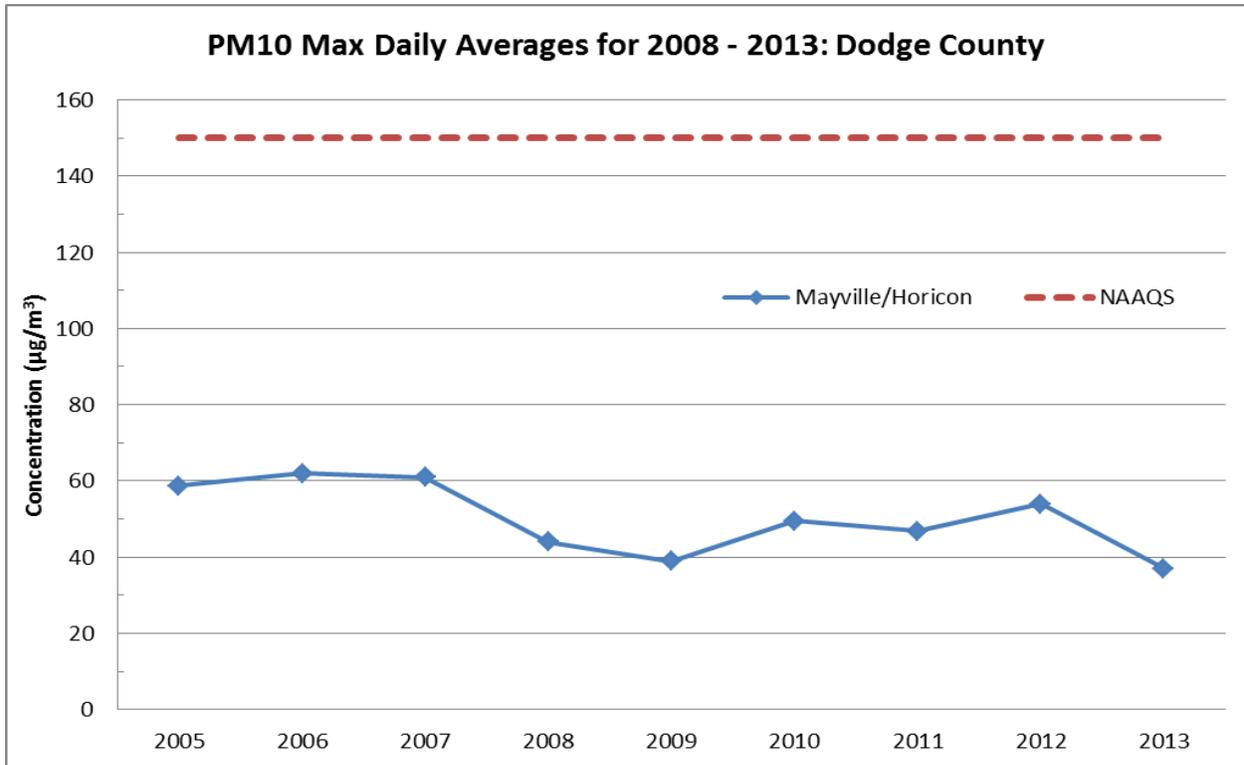
PM_{2.5} monitoring in Dodge County is conducted at the Horicon Wildlife Area monitoring station located at 1210 North Palmatory Street. The Horicon site began sampling for 24-hour PM_{2.5} on December 18, 2009 and for ozone on January 22, 2010. Prior to these dates, sampling in Dodge County was performed at a site near Iron Ridge. Consequently, data from both sites is used to calculate design values for 2010, 2011, and 2012.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



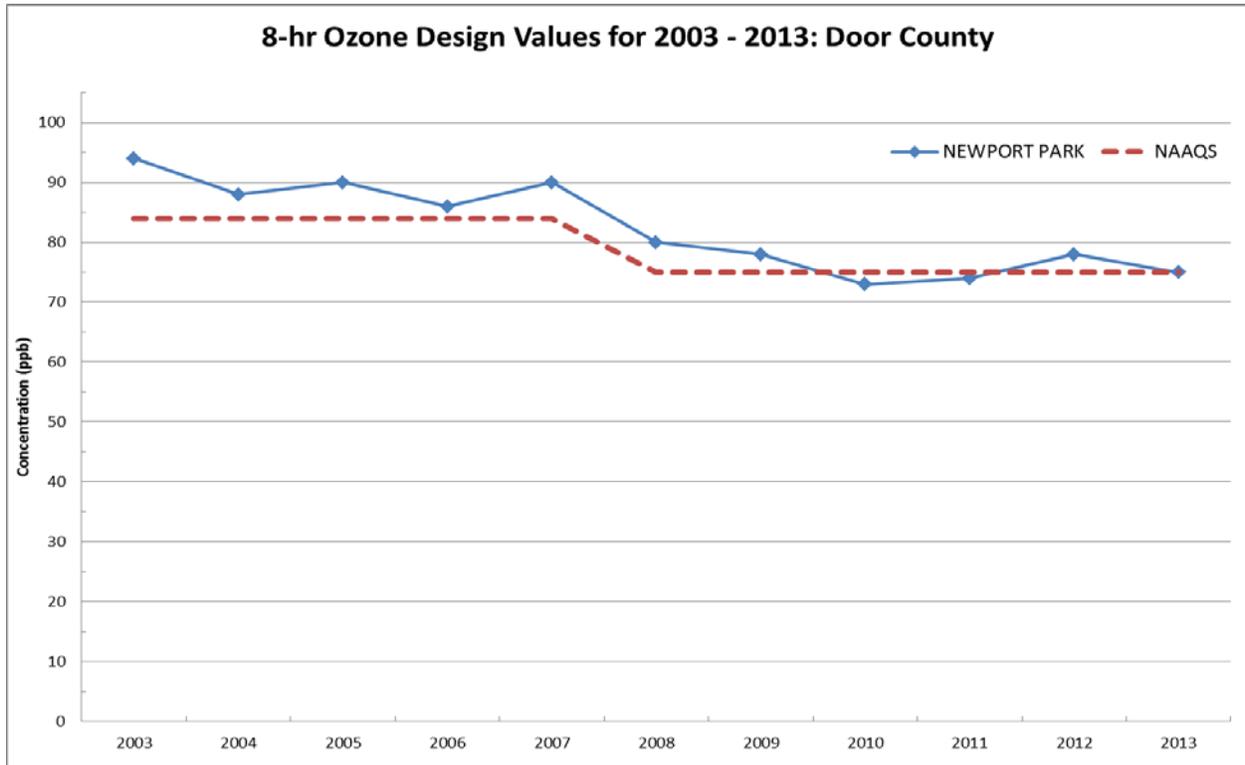
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Door County

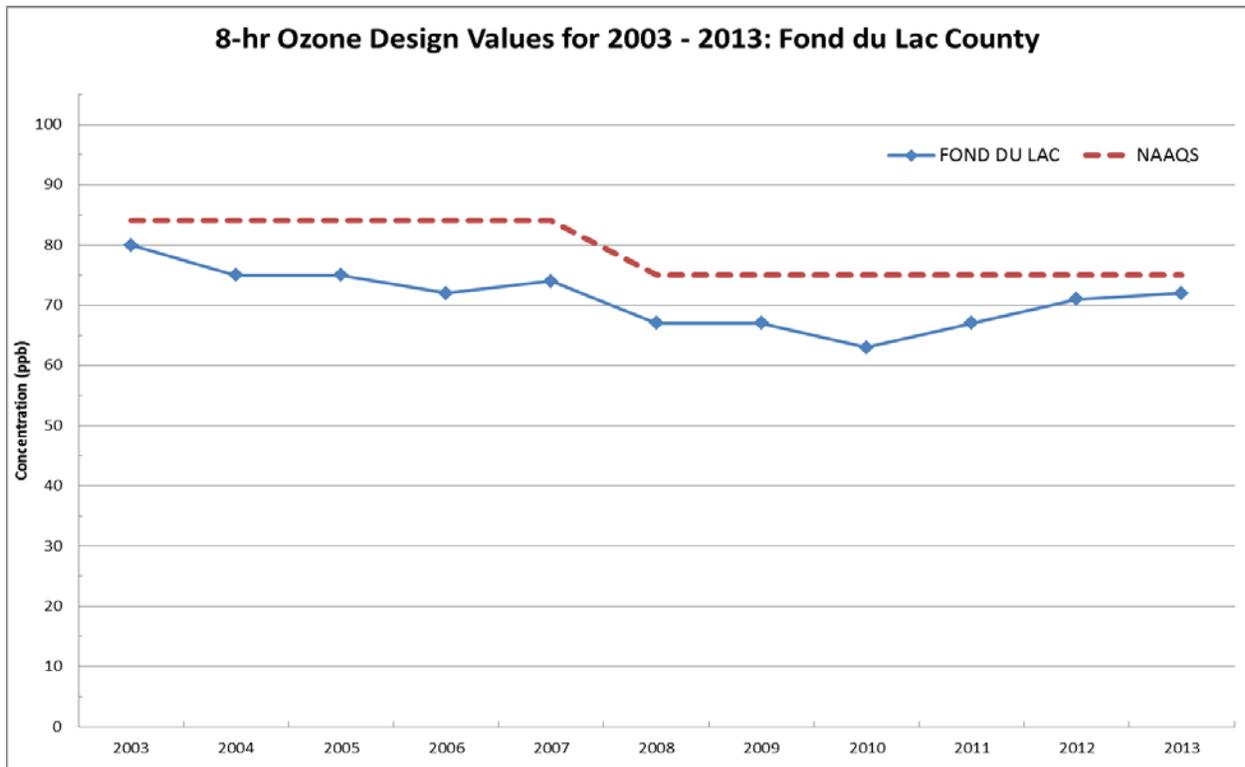
Ozone monitoring in Door County takes place at Newport State Park at 475 County Trunk Highway NP in Ellison Bay. The monitor is located inside the state park.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Fond du Lac County

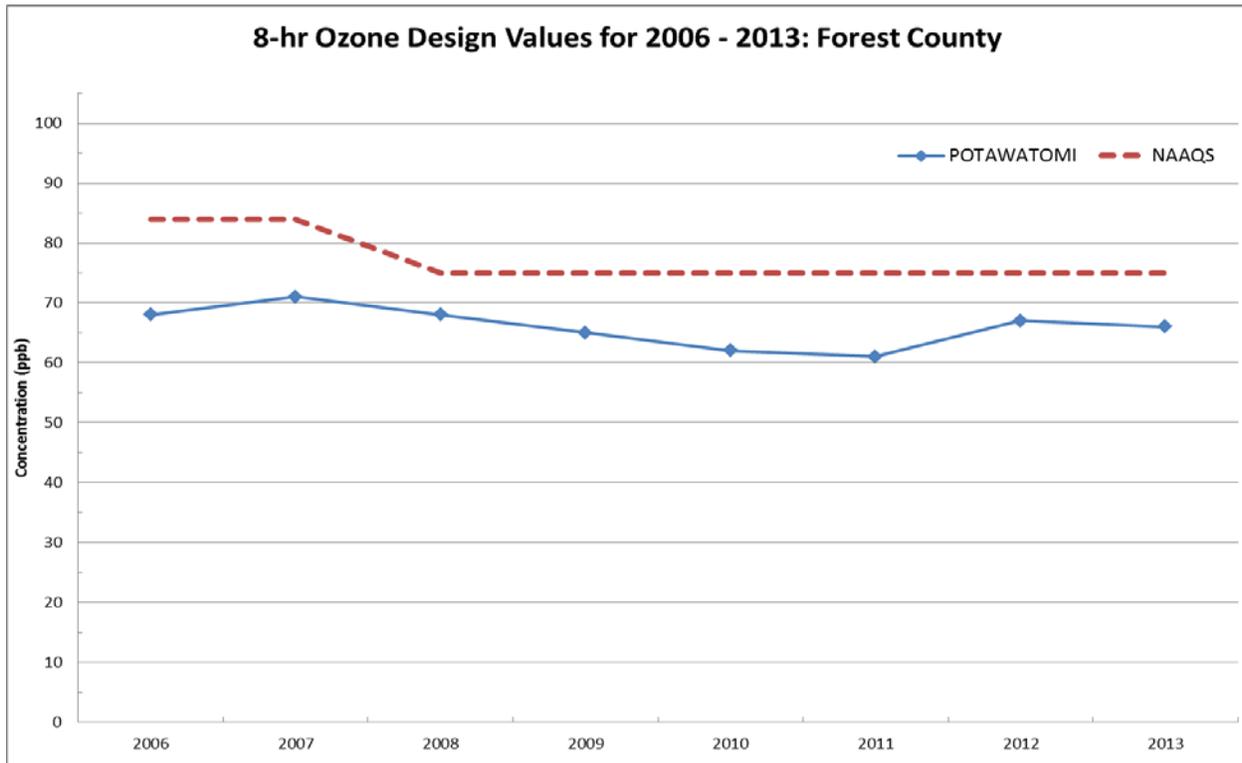
Ozone monitoring in Fond du Lac County is performed at N3996 Kelly Road in the Town of Byron. The site is located at the edge of a farm field.



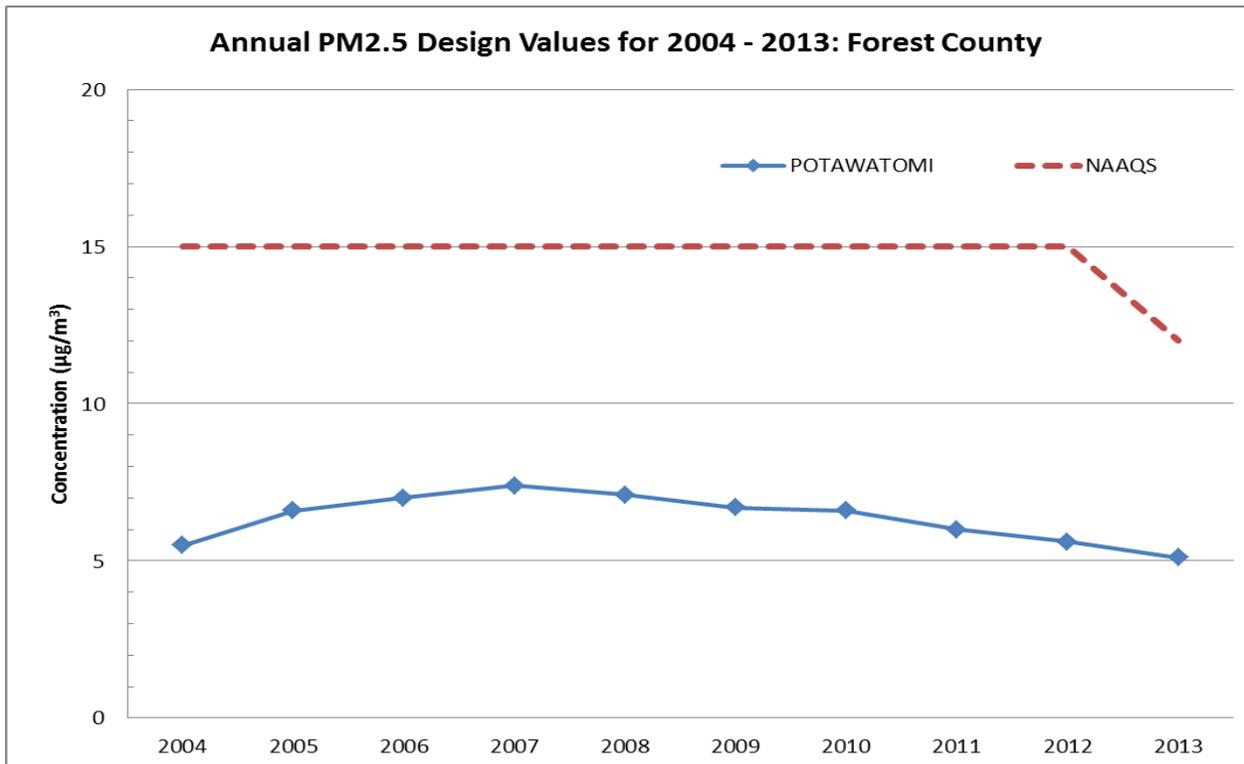
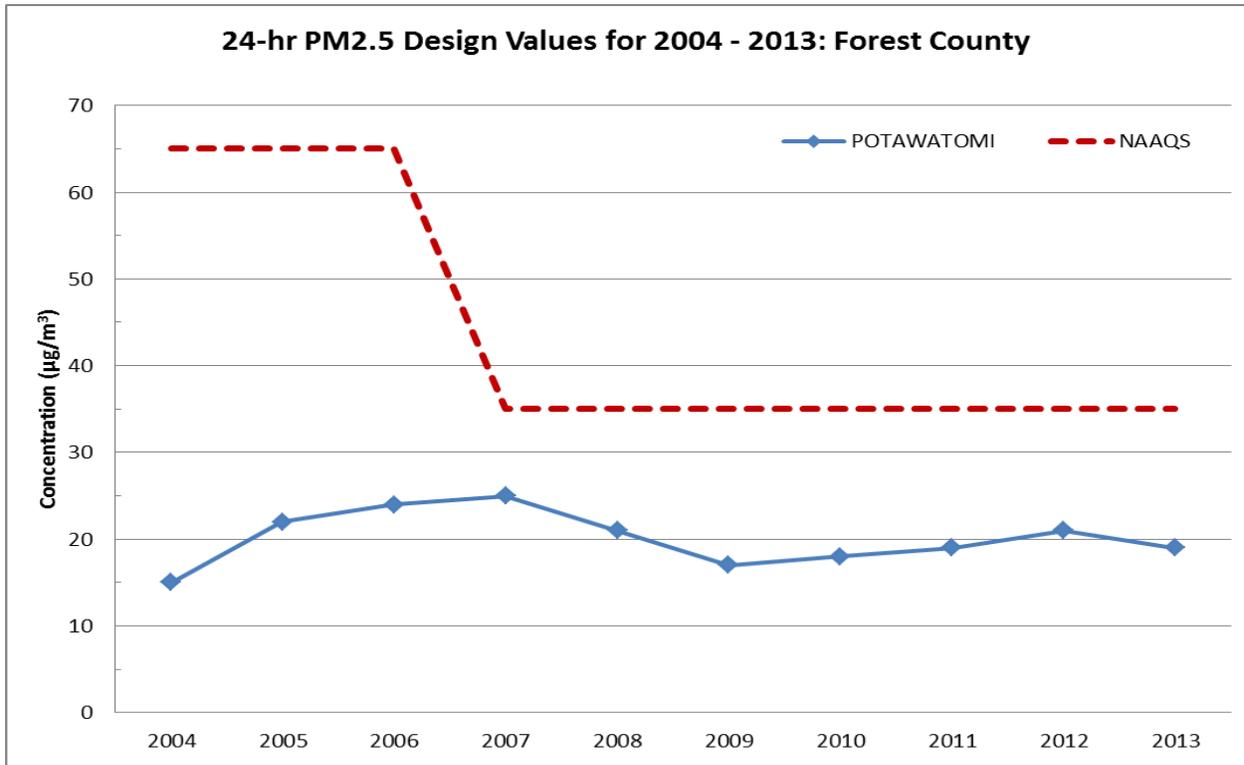
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Forest County

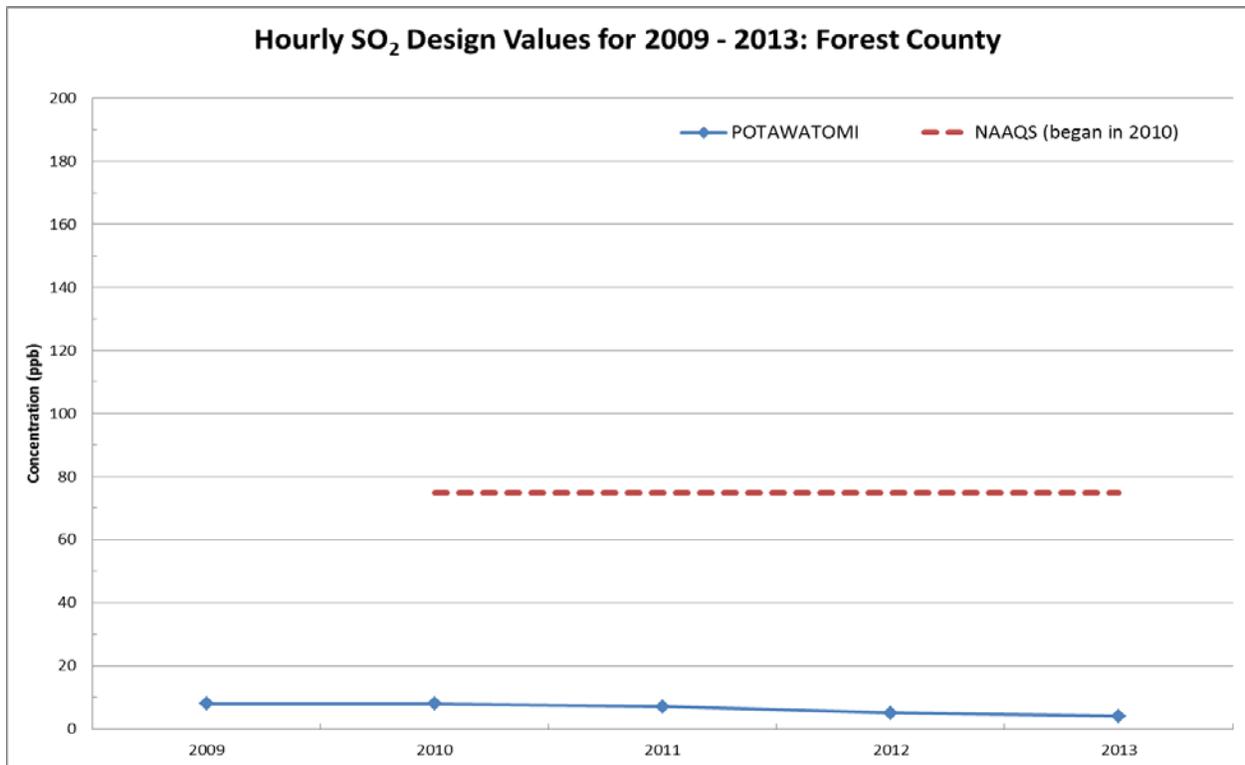
Monitoring for ozone, SO₂, PM_{2.5}, and NO₂ is conducted by the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe in Crandon. However, the site doesn't have enough data to meet the criteria for NO₂ design value calculation.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



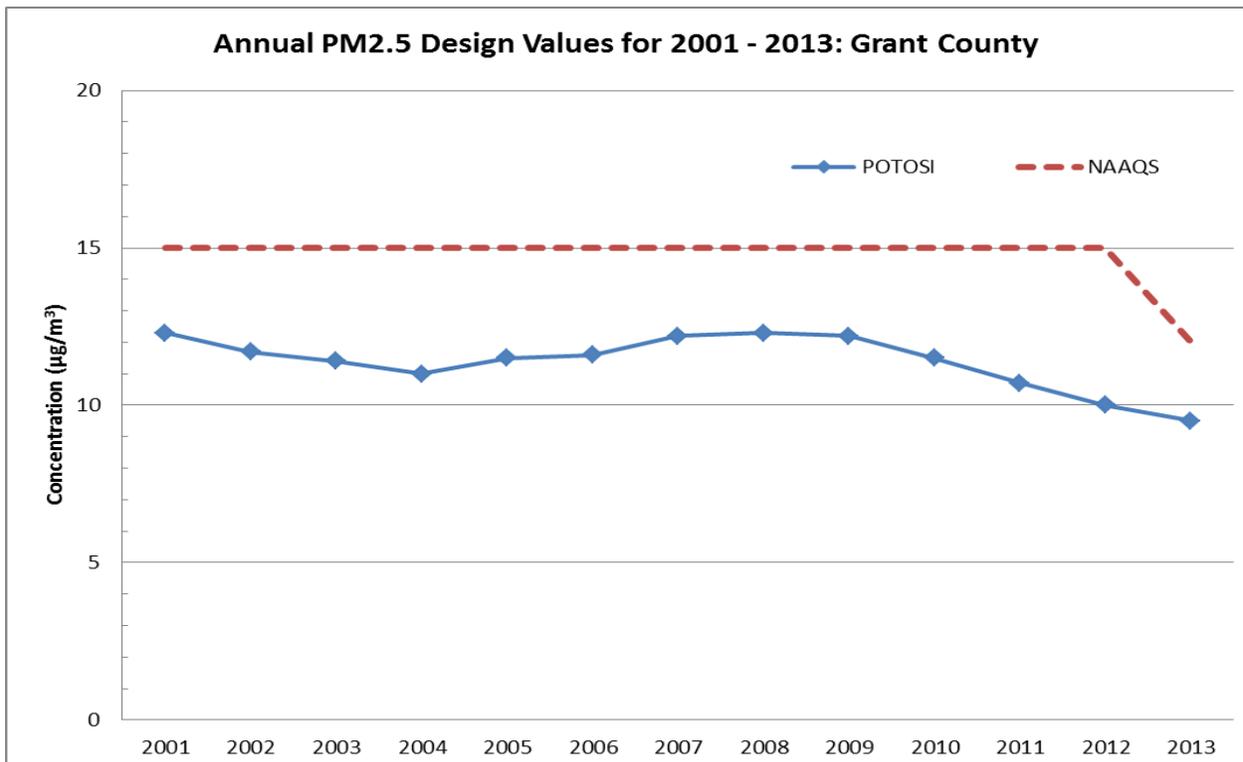
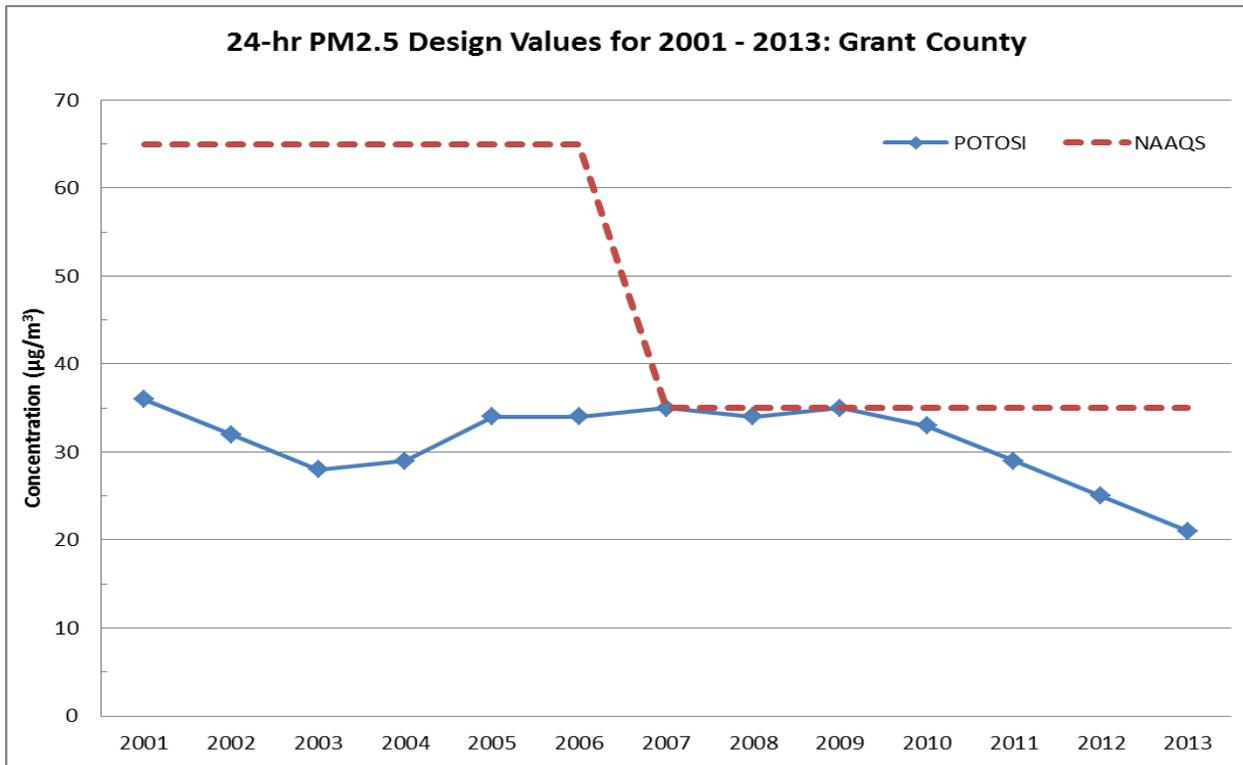
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Grant County

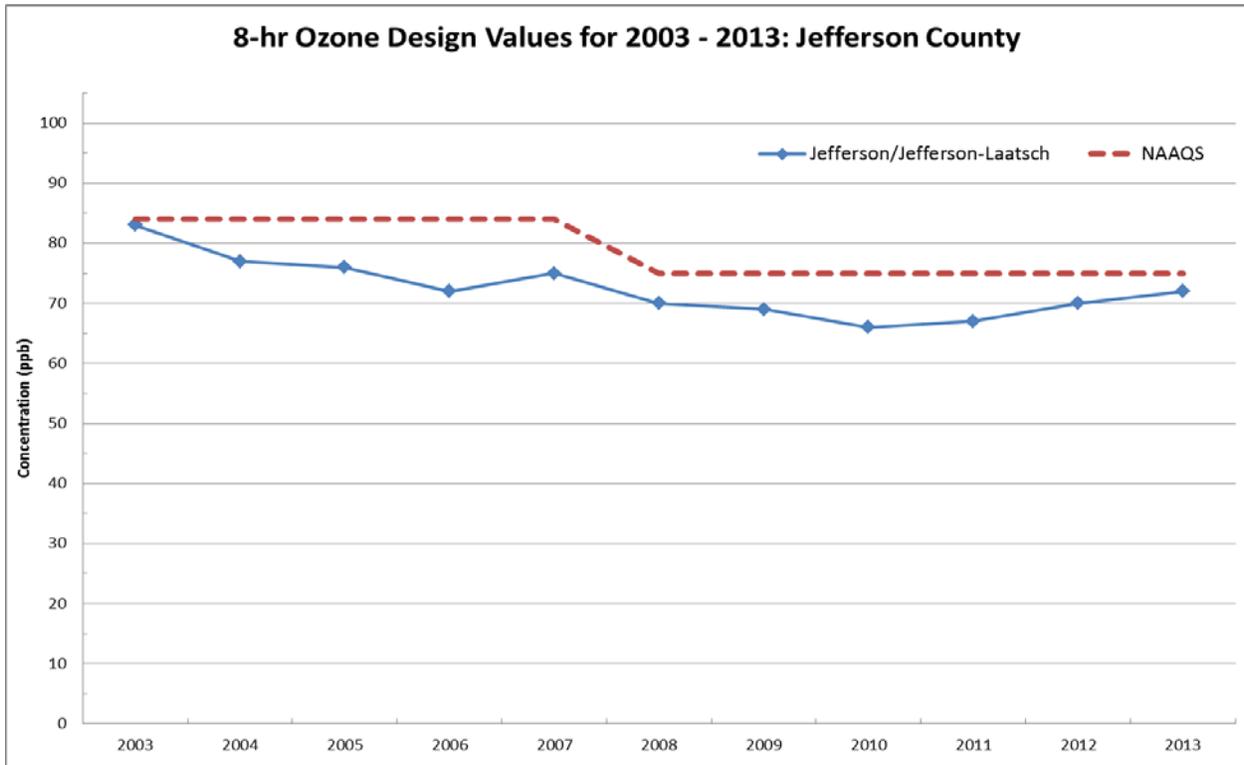
PM_{2.5} monitoring in Grant County takes place at 128 Highway 61 on Potosi High School property.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Jefferson County

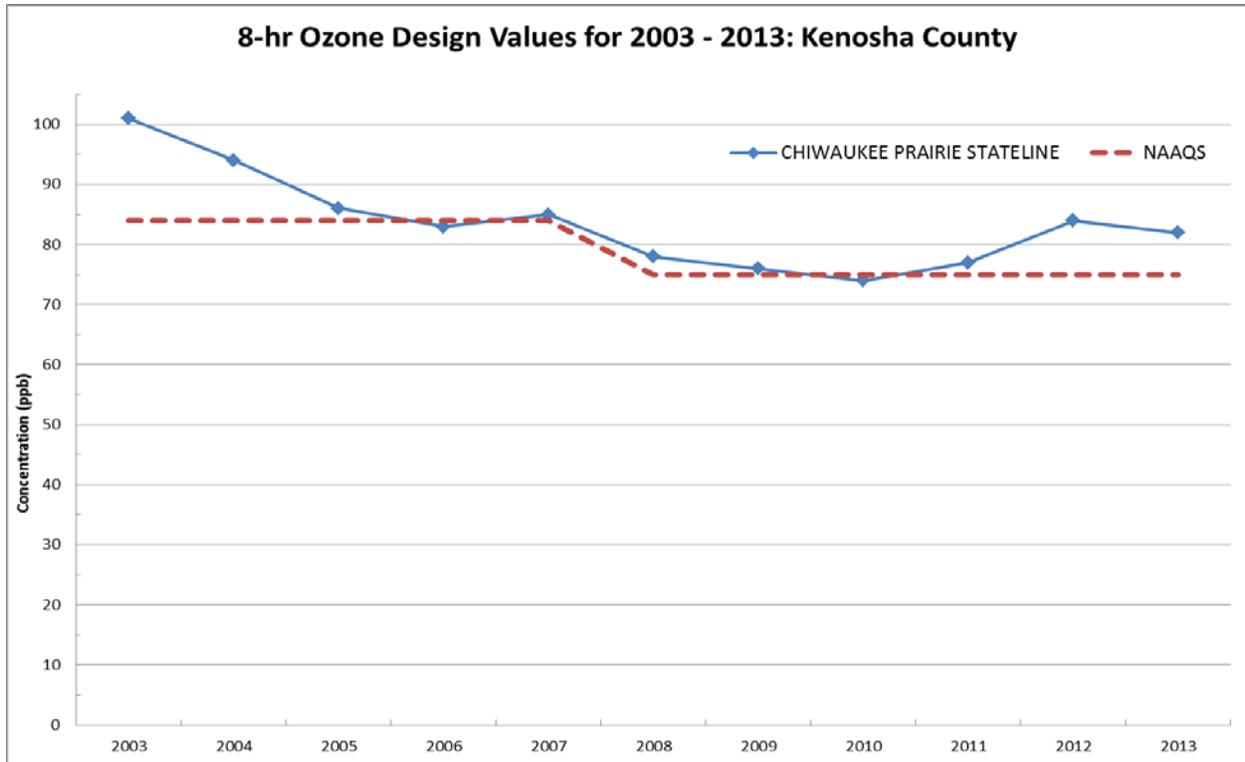
Ozone monitoring in Jefferson County has previously been conducted at Jefferson High School next to the sports field grounds at 634 West Linden Drive. For the 2013 ozone season, the monitoring location was moved near the elementary school grounds at Laatsch Lane in the City of Jefferson. This is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the previous site (associated with the data shown here).



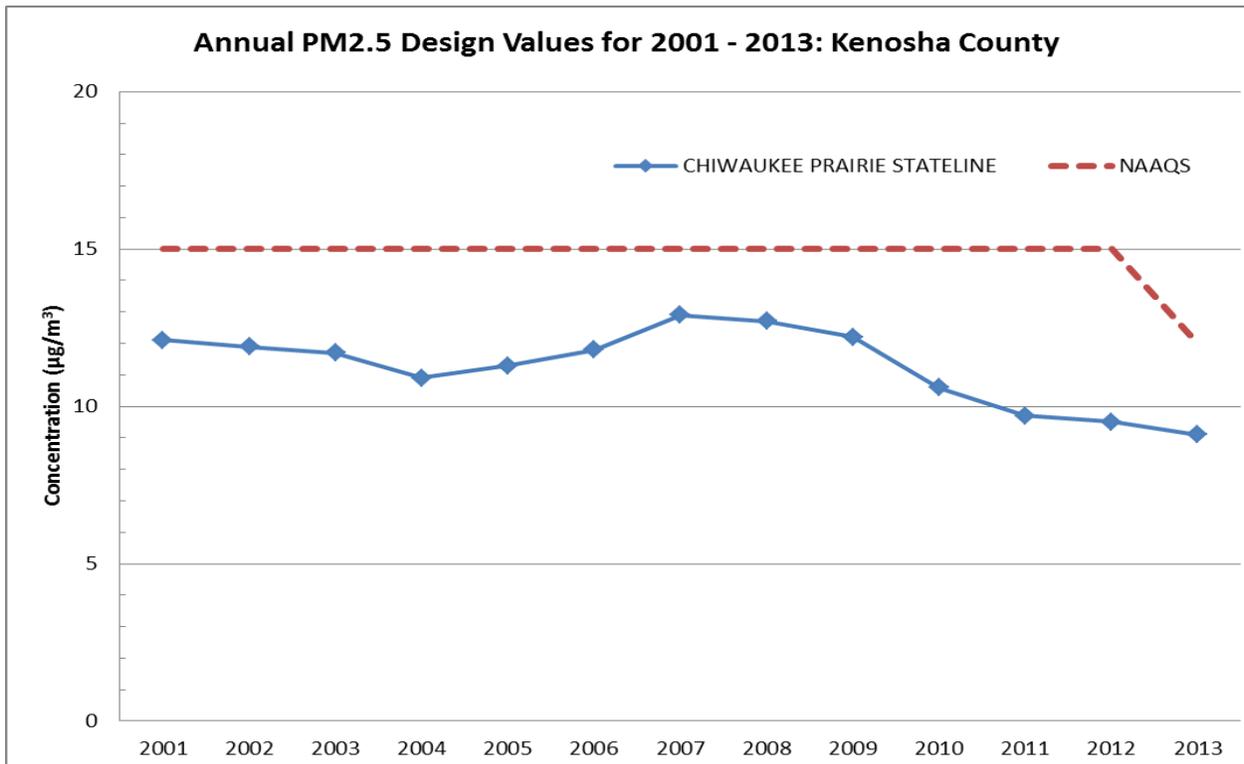
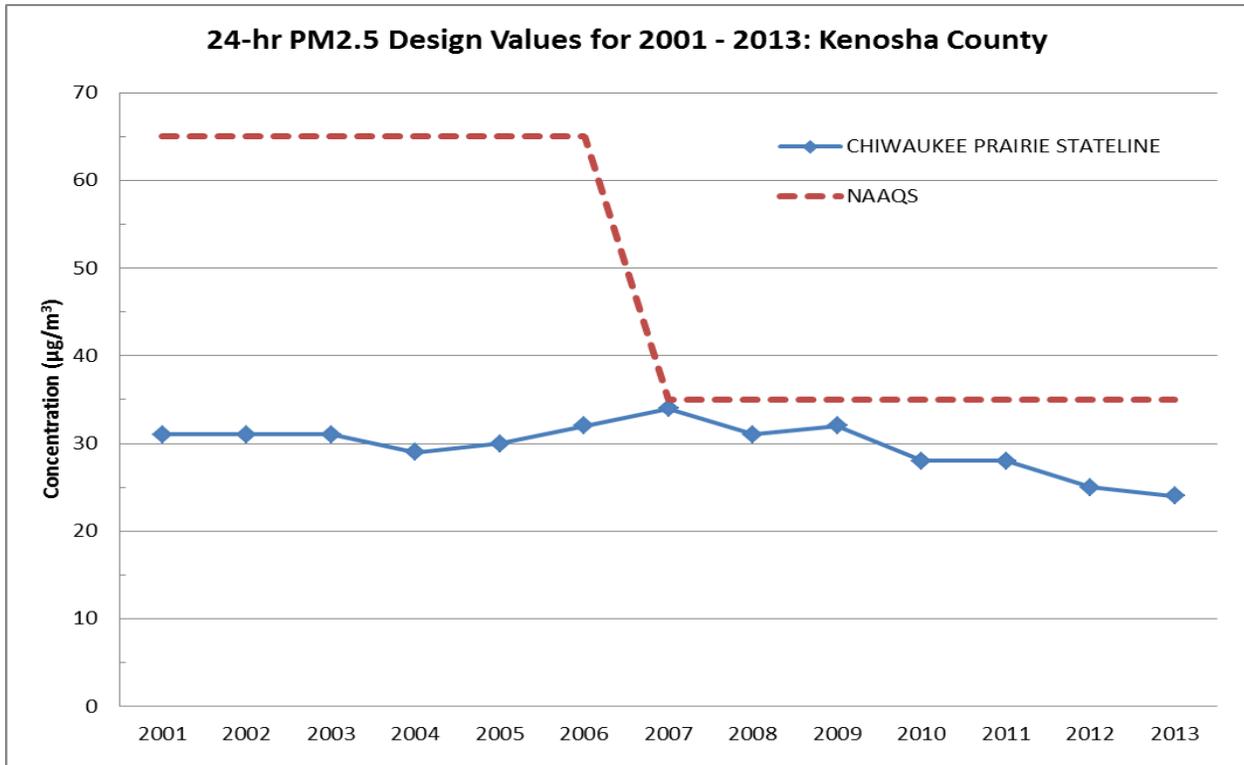
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Kenosha County

PM_{2.5} and ozone monitoring for Kenosha County is performed at 11838 First Court in the Chiwaukee Prairie, which is a rural area near the Wisconsin – Illinois border. A second ozone monitoring site in Kenosha County was added in 2013 at the water tower located at 4504 64th Street. The water tower site is designated as a special purpose monitor. This report only addresses design values from the Chiwaukee Prairie site, as shown in the figures below. However, the two sites will be compared in a separate document.



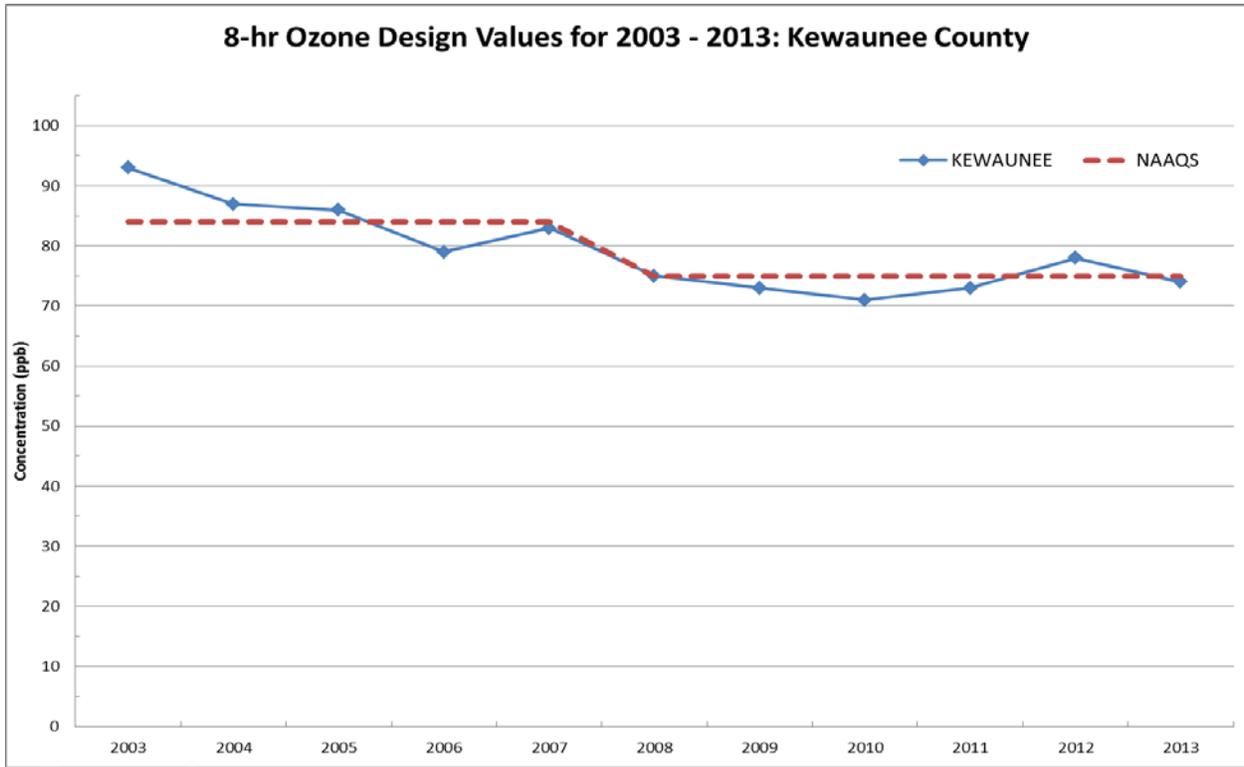
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Kewaunee County

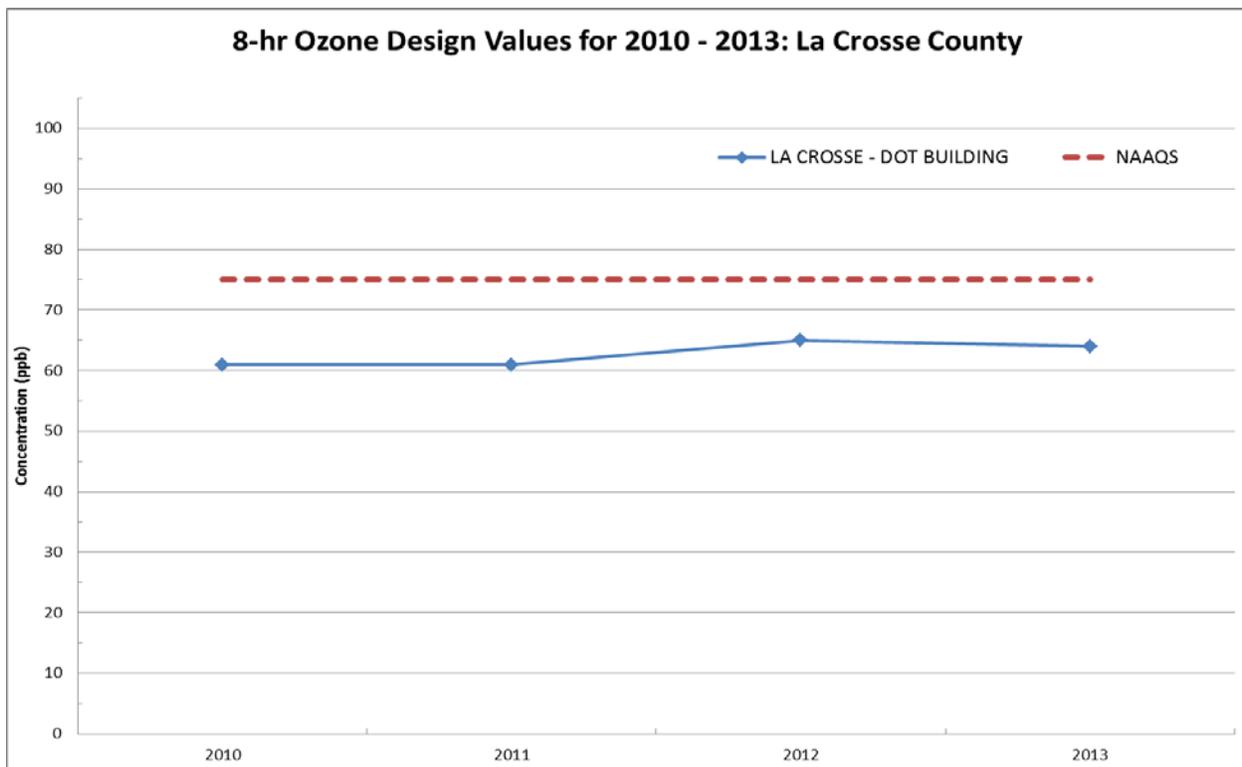
Ozone monitoring in Kewaunee County takes place at Rural Route #1, Highway 42 on a bluff over Lake Michigan.



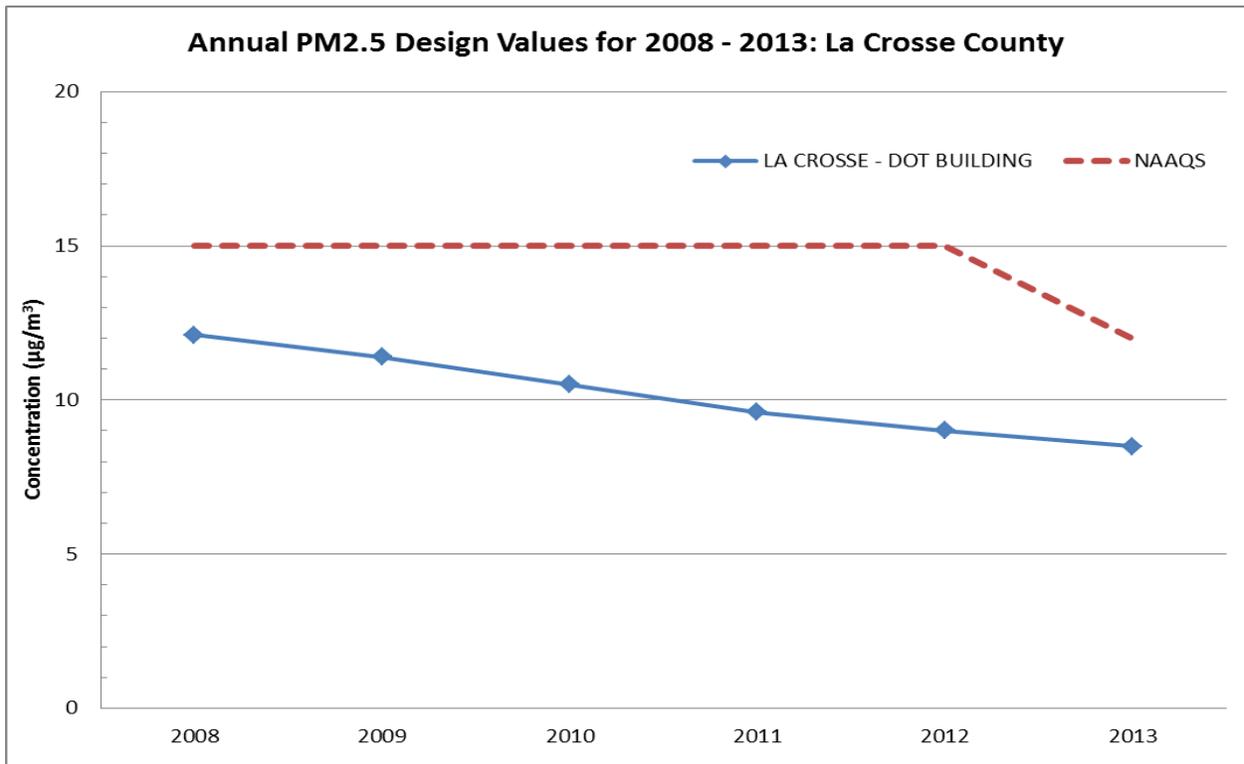
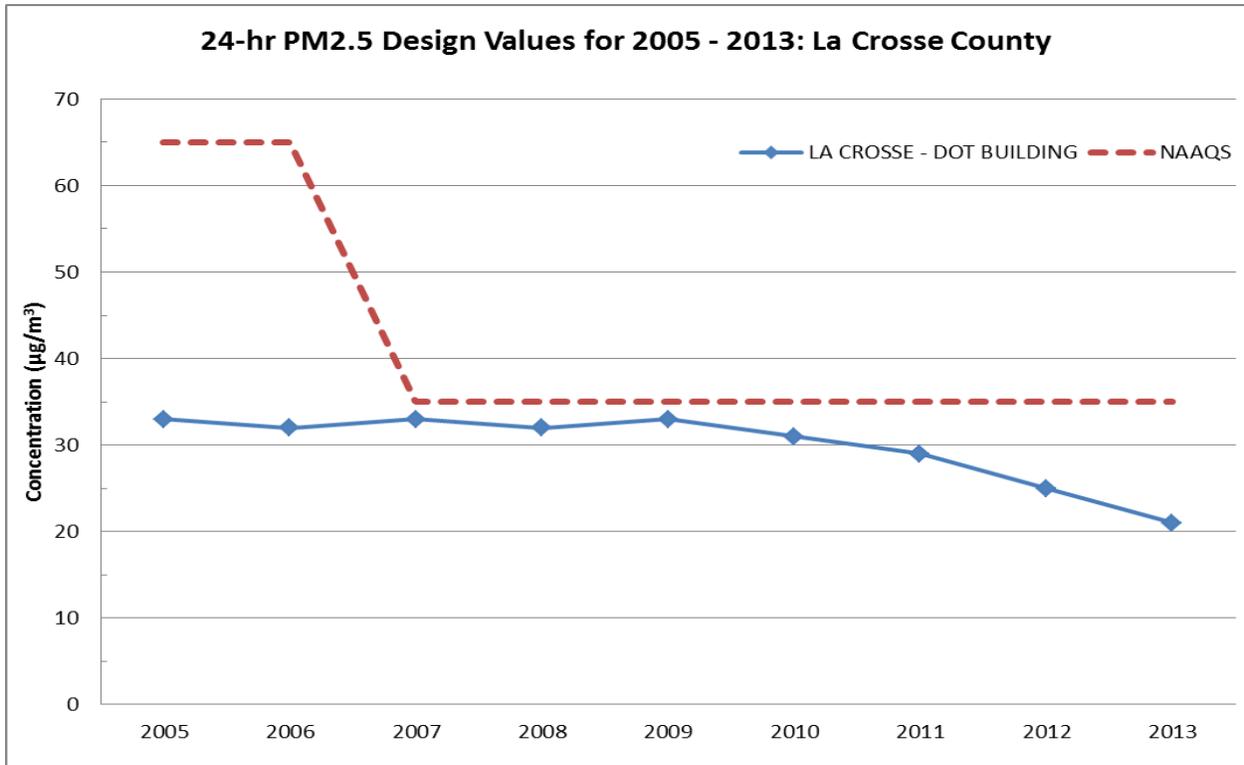
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

La Crosse County

Ozone and PM_{2.5} monitoring for La Crosse County is conducted at the Department of Transportation office located at 3350 Mormon Coulee Road in La Crosse.



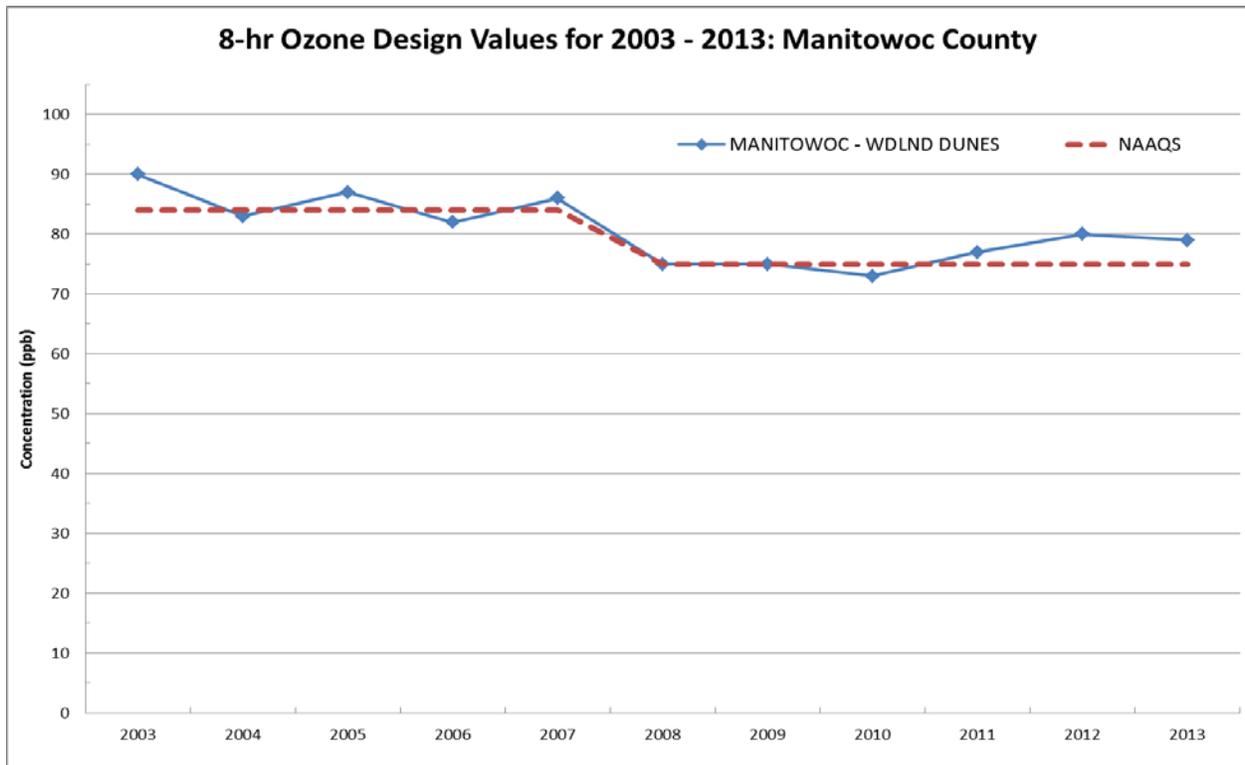
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Manitowoc County

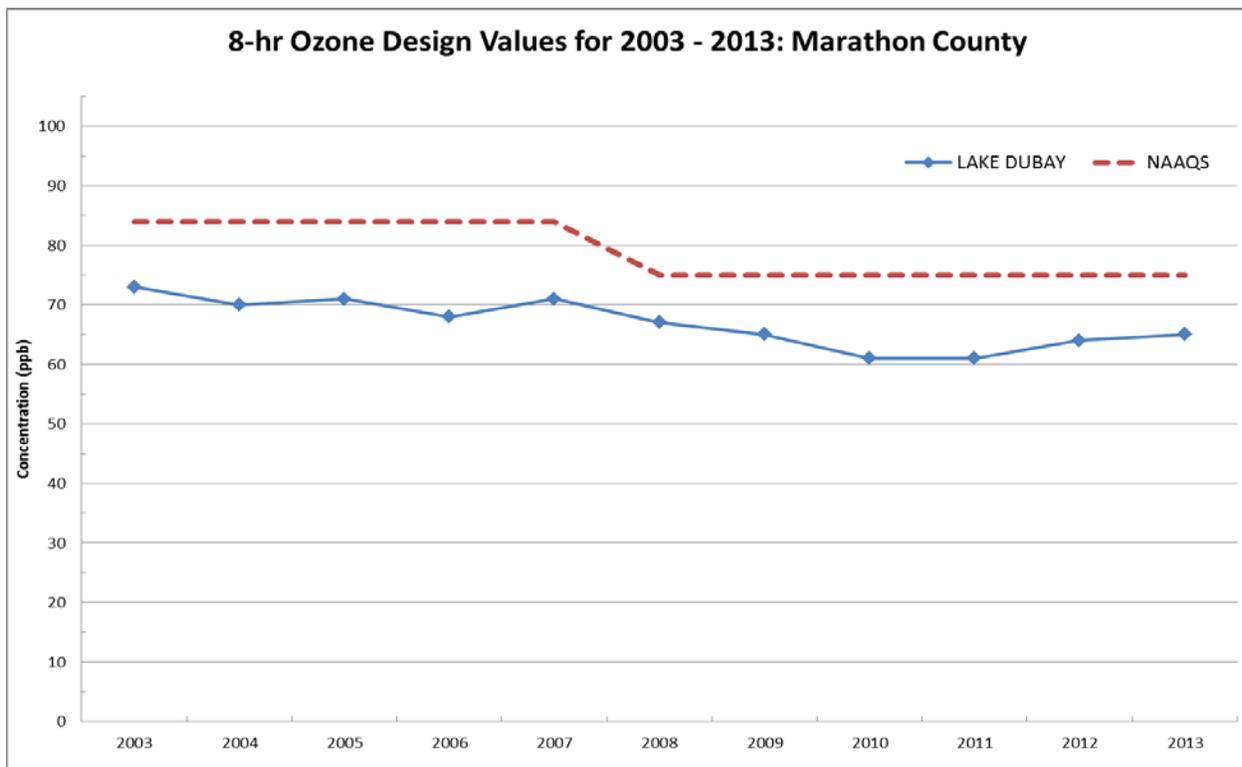
Ozone monitoring for Manitowoc County is performed at 2315 Goodwin Road in Two Rivers at the Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Marathon County

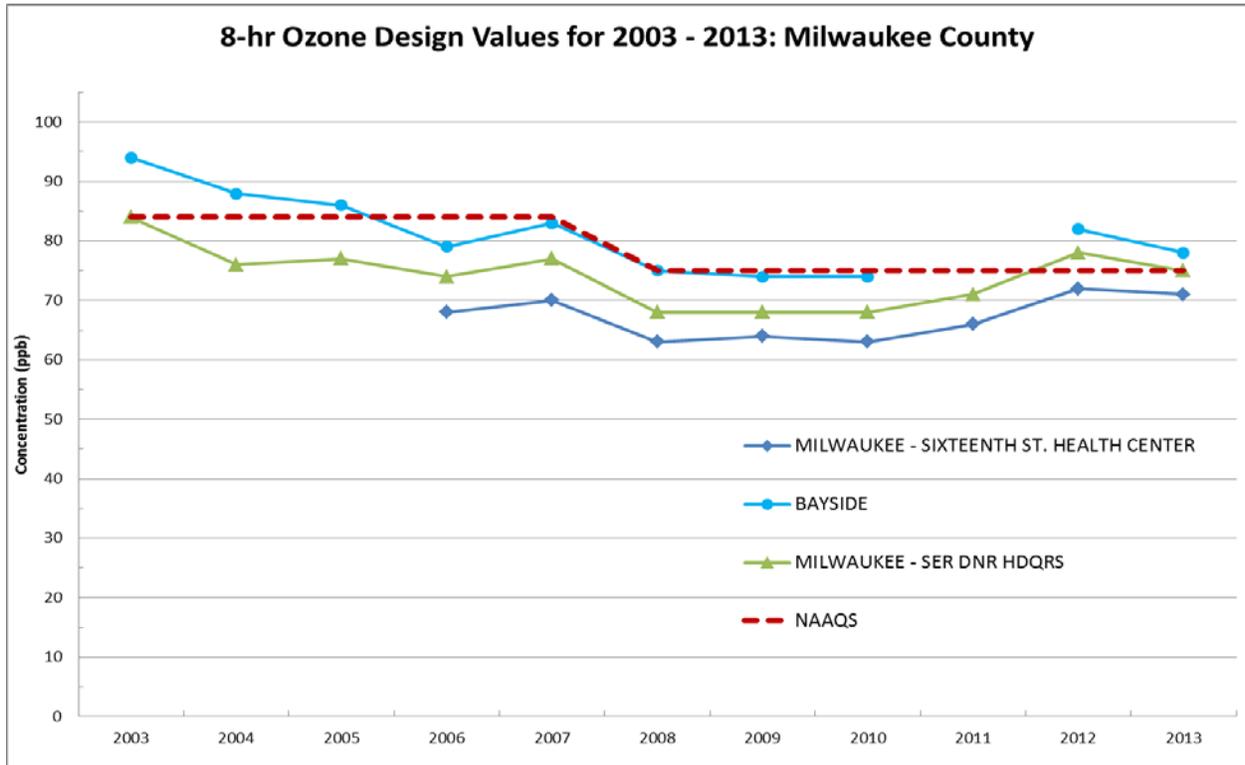
Ozone monitoring in Marathon County is conducted at a rural location at 1780 Bergen Road near Lake Dubai, in Bergen Township.



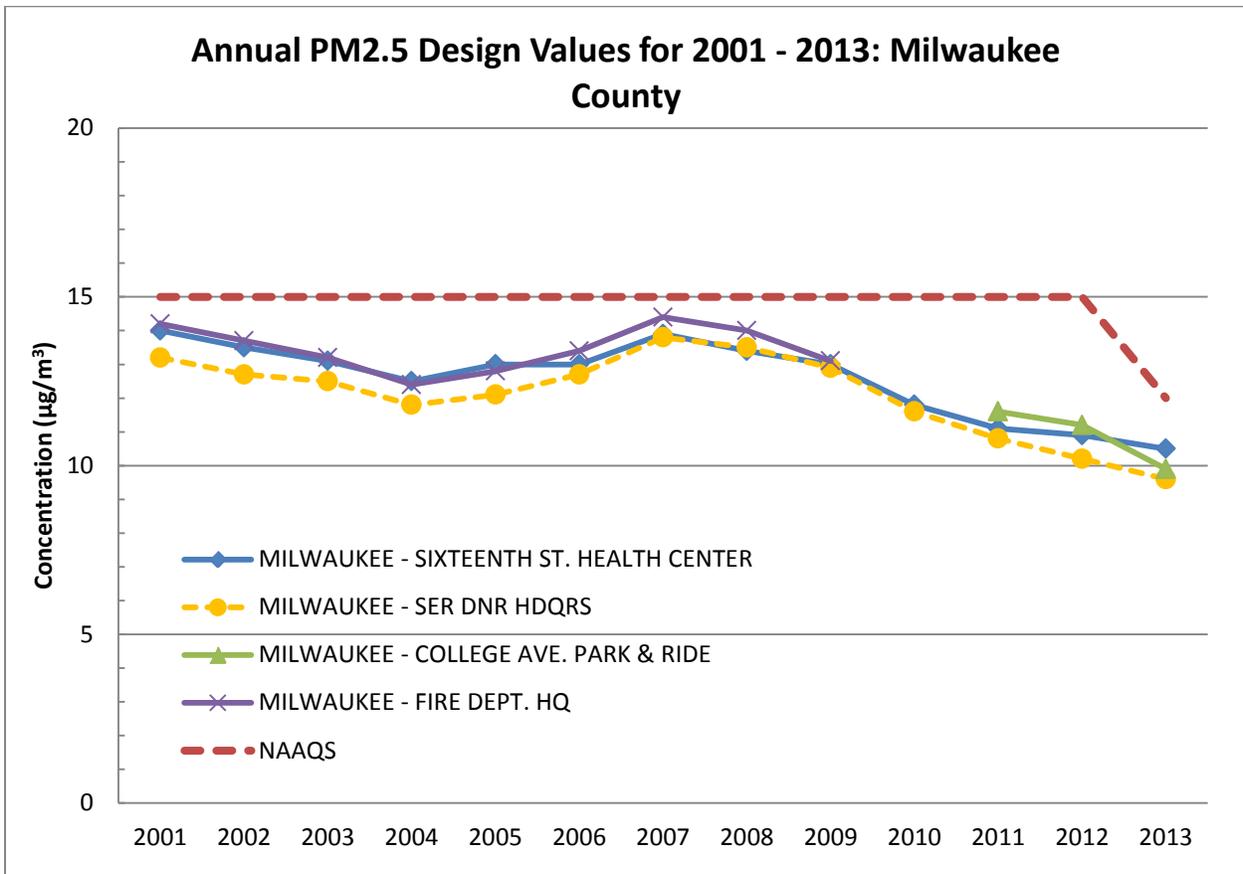
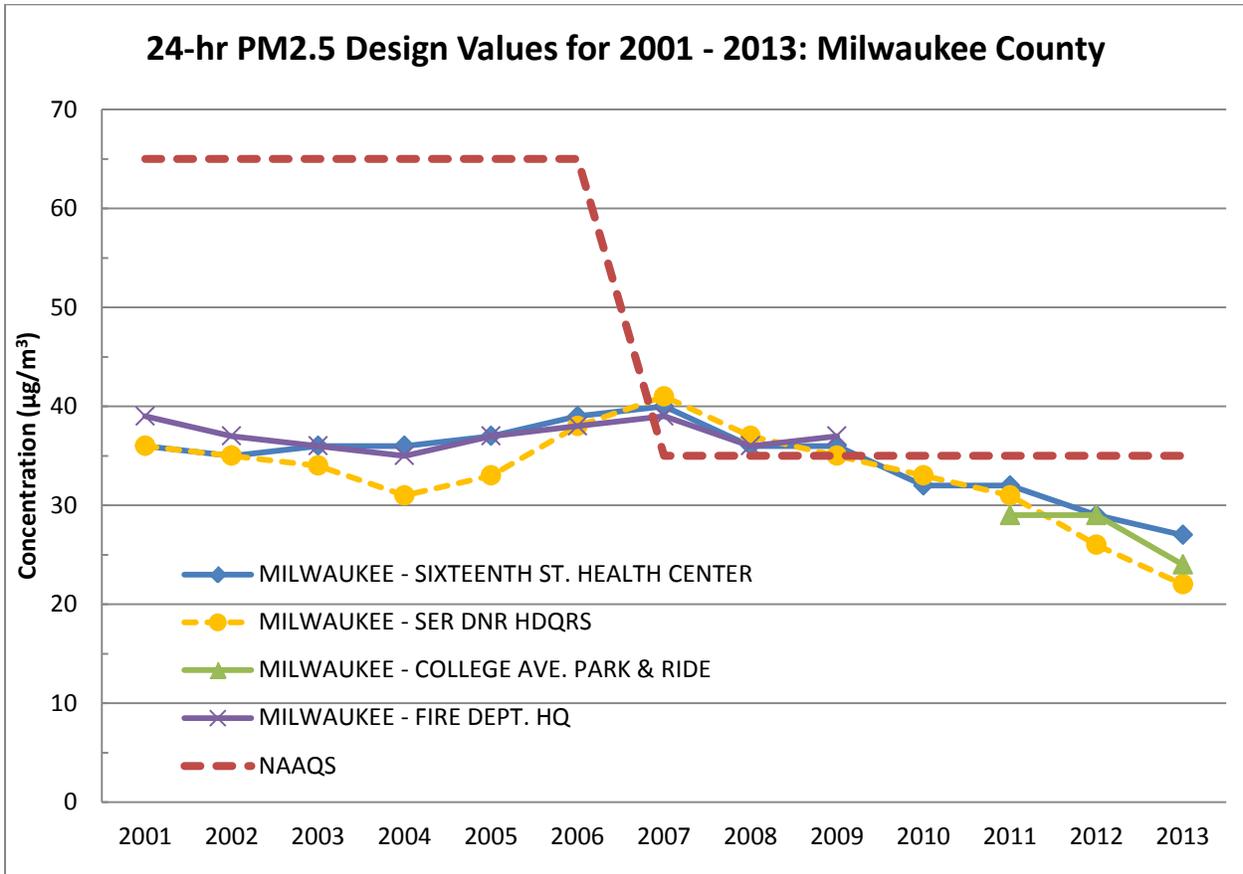
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Milwaukee County

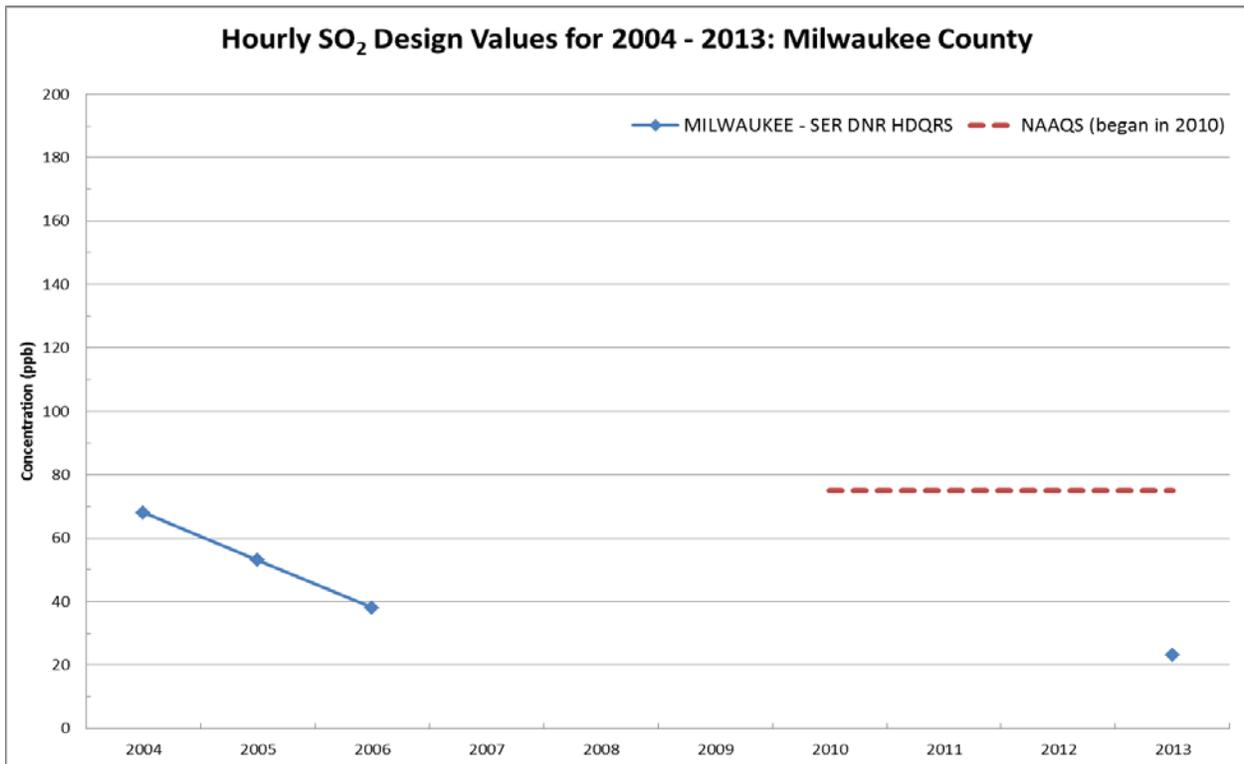
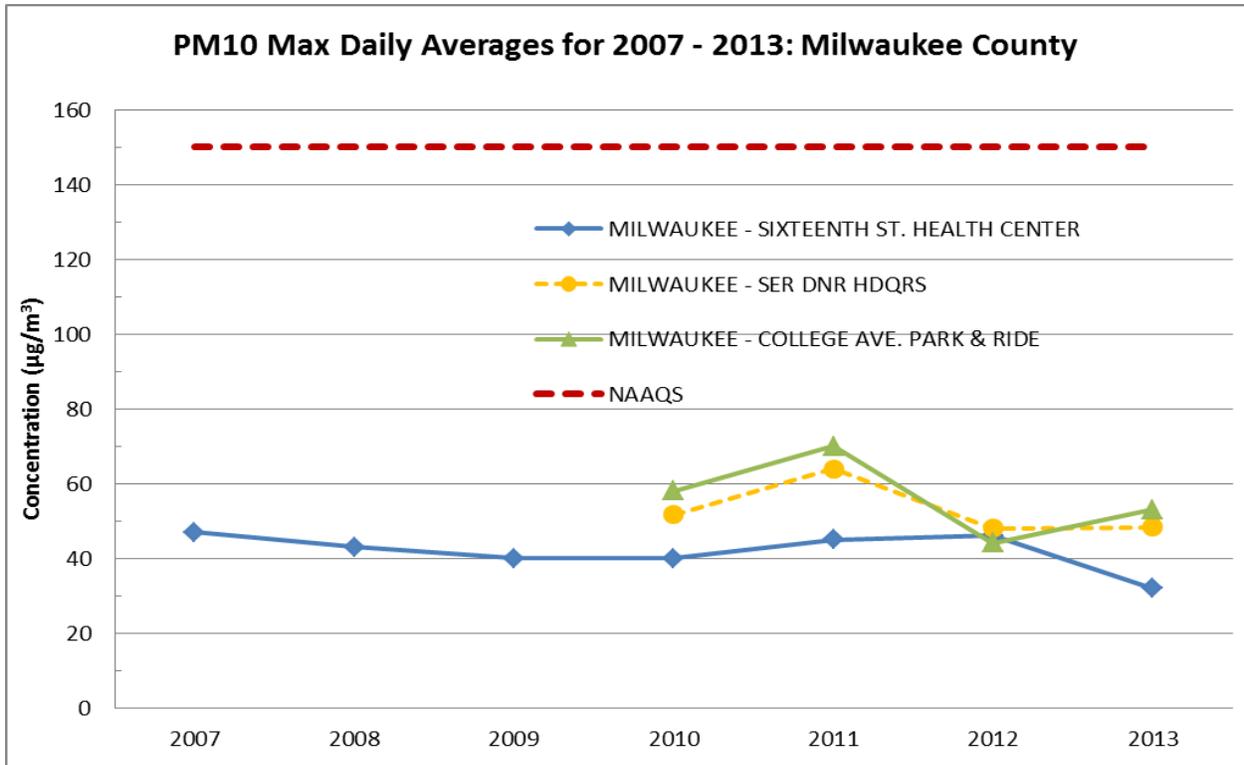
PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and ozone monitoring for Milwaukee County takes place at multiple locations, which are shown together in the following plots for comparison. SO₂ monitoring is performed at the DNR Headquarters office at 2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.



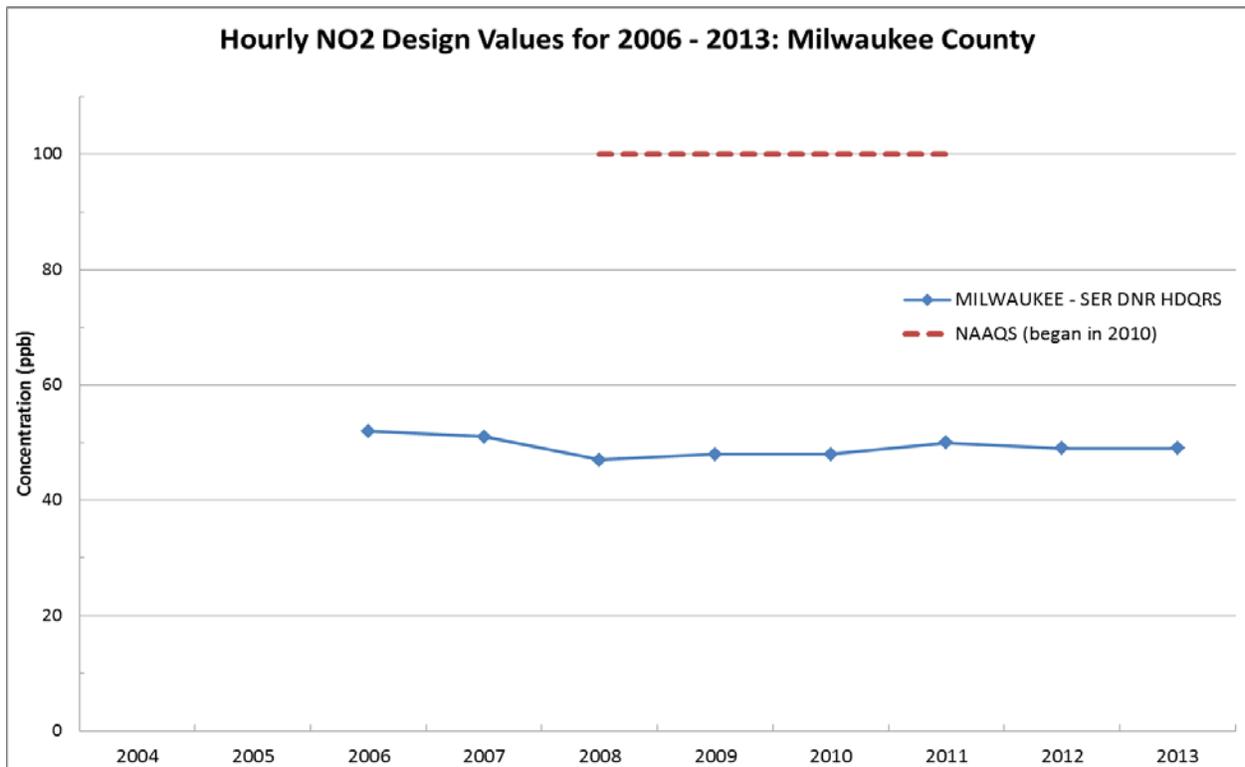
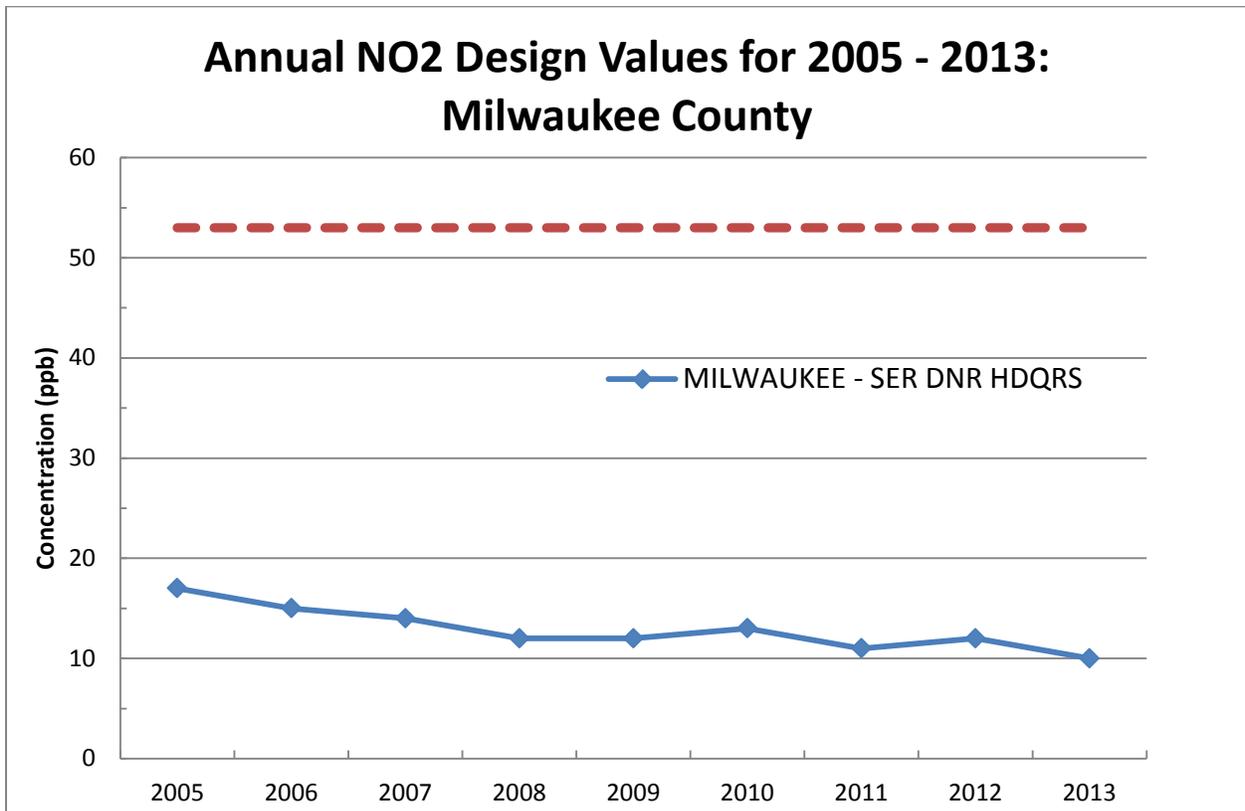
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



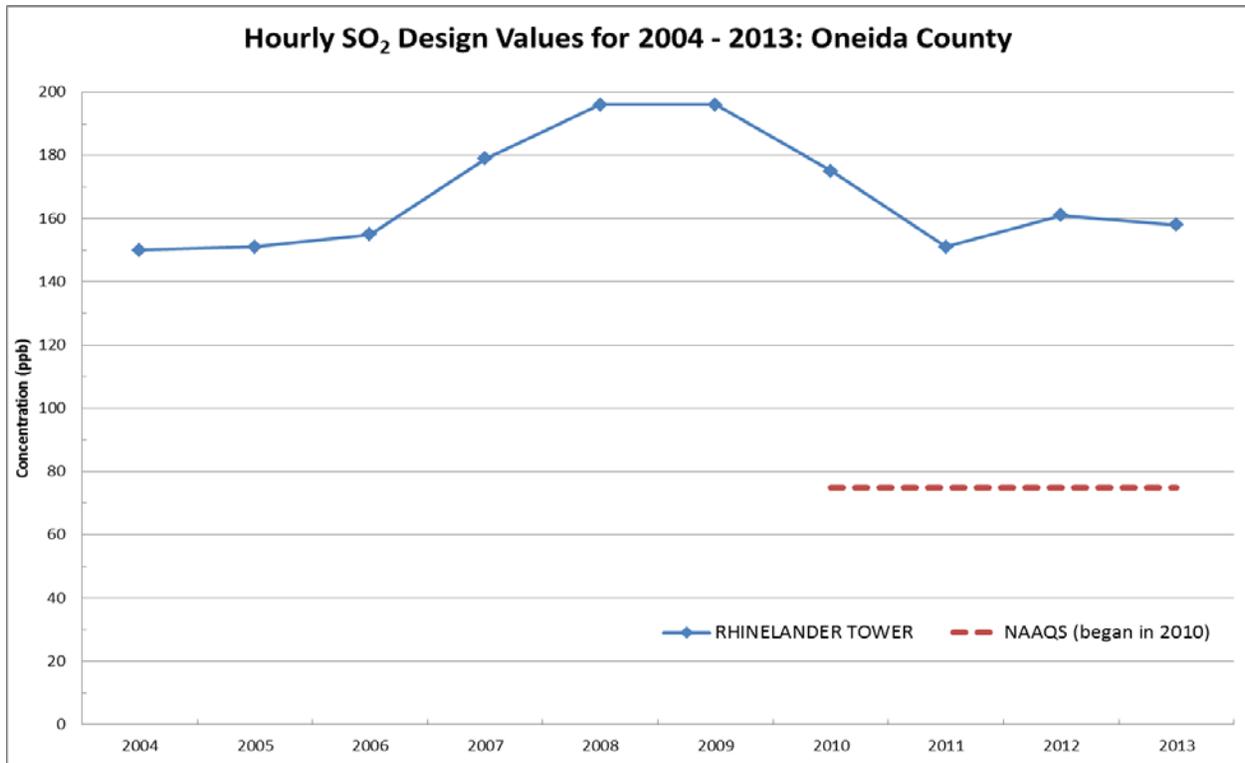
SO₂ plot: The EPA established a 1-hour SO₂ standard in 2010 that replaced the previous 24-hour and annual standards.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Oneida County

SO₂ monitoring in Oneida County takes place at 434 High Street, next to the Rhinelander Water Tower. This monitor is source-oriented and is sited to assess compliance with the SO₂ NAAQS. Note that the monitor is out of compliance with the 1-hour standard. The facility primarily responsible for the monitored values is working with WDNR permit staff to resolve this issue through a permit action in compliance with required federal timeframes.

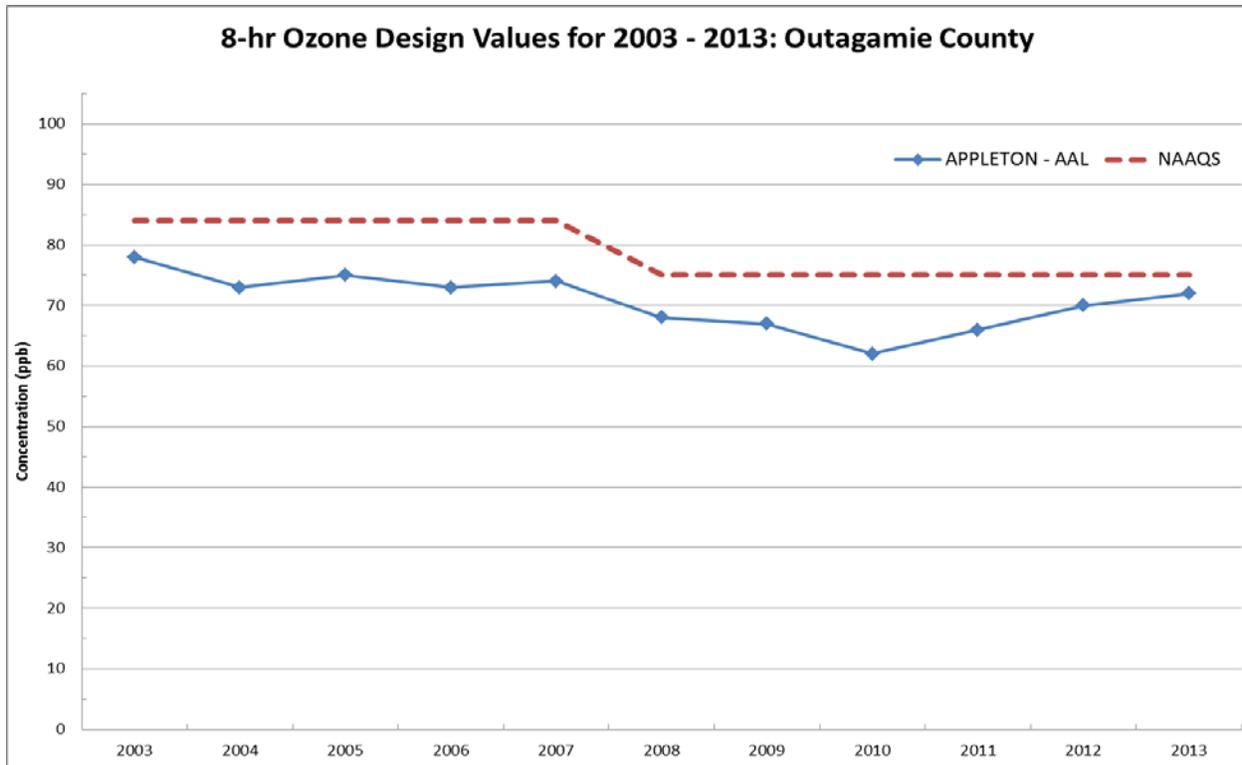


SO₂ plot: The EPA established a 1-hour SO₂ standard in 2010 that replaced the previous 24-hour and annual standards.

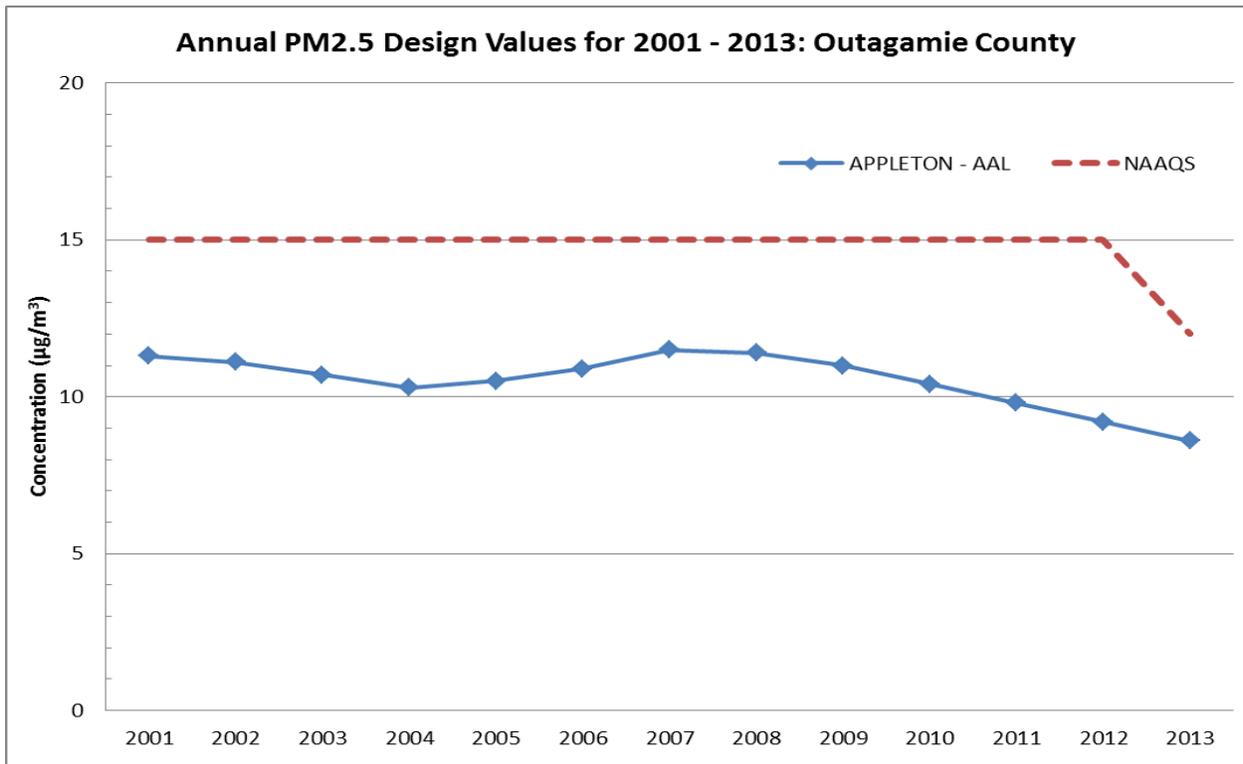
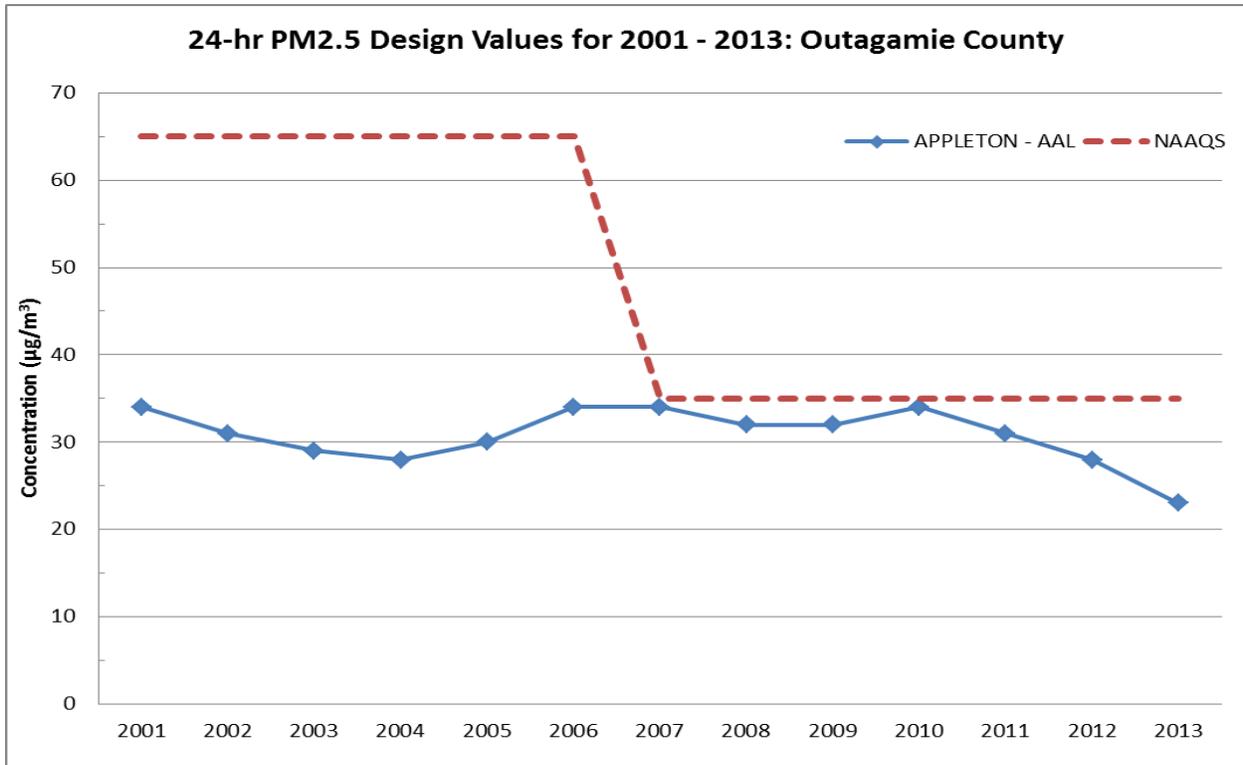
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Outagamie County

PM_{2.5} and ozone monitoring in Outagamie County is performed at 4432 North Meade Street in Appleton near a residential area.



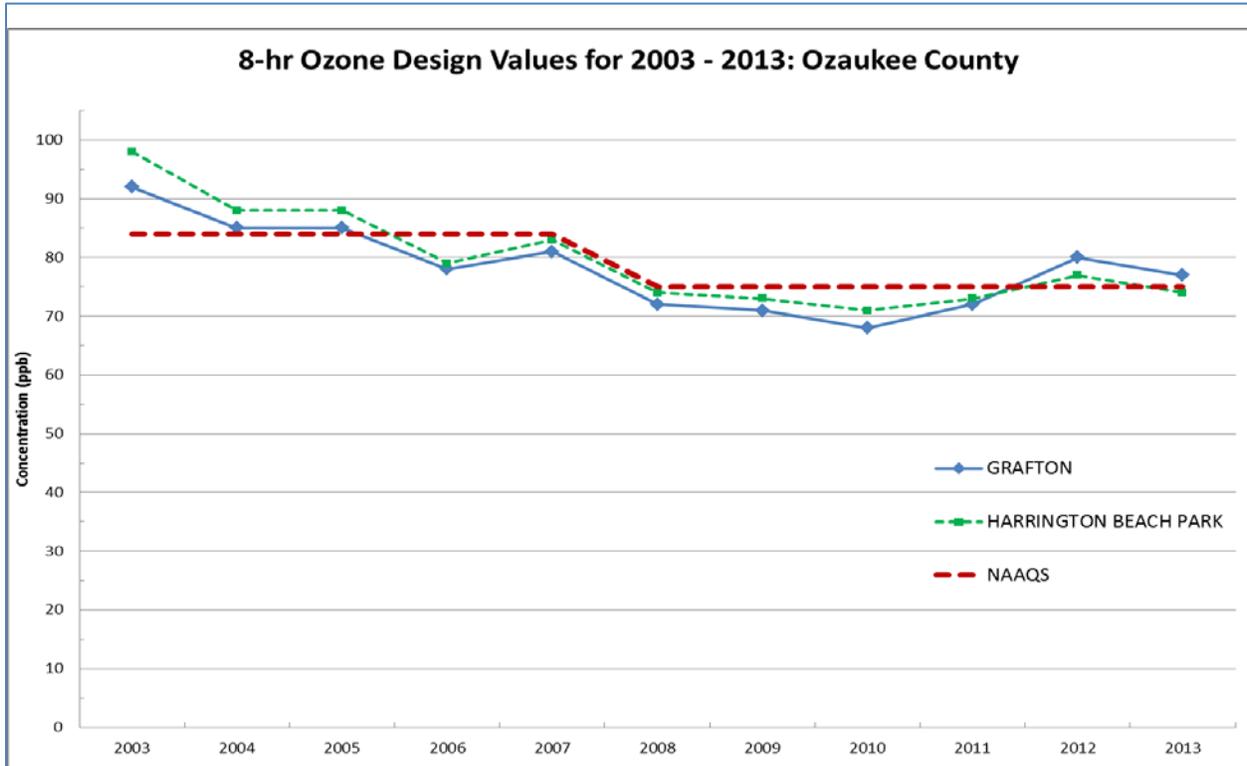
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



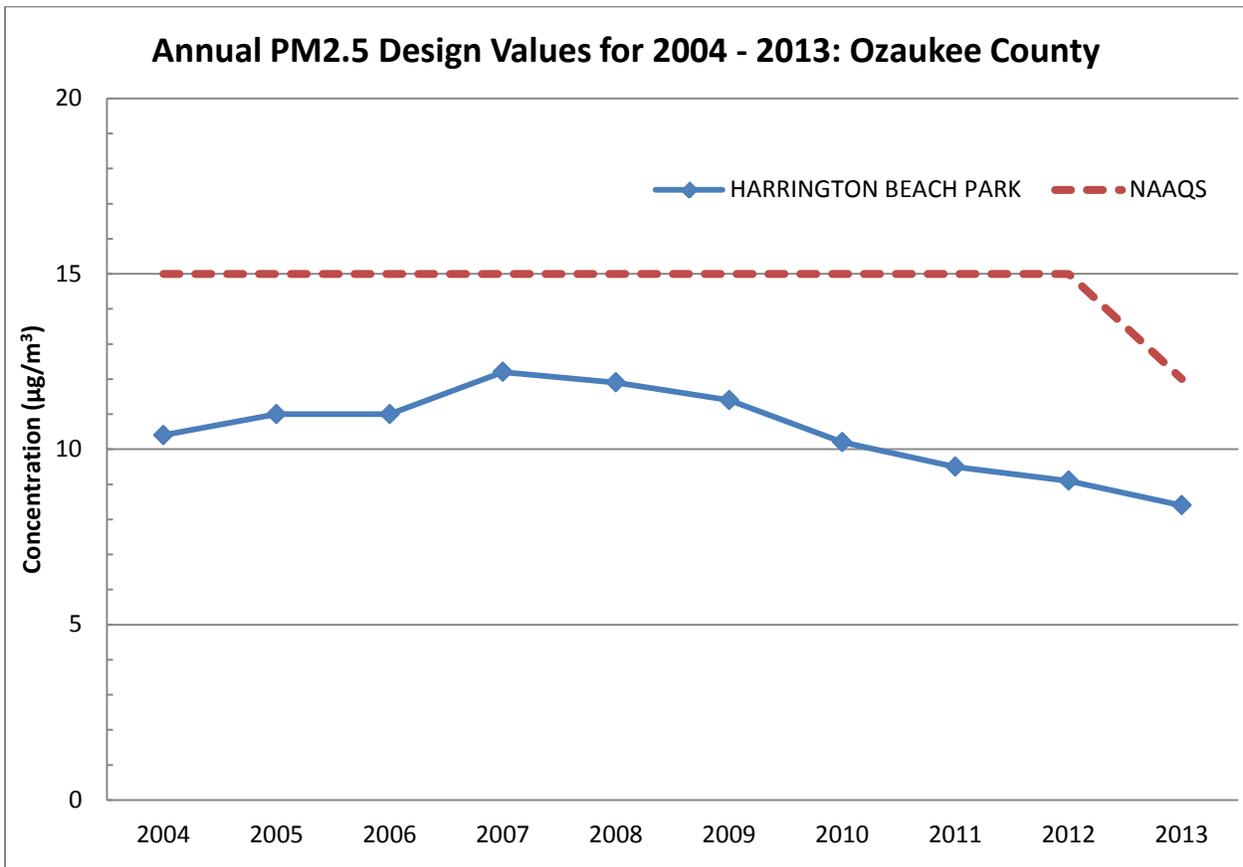
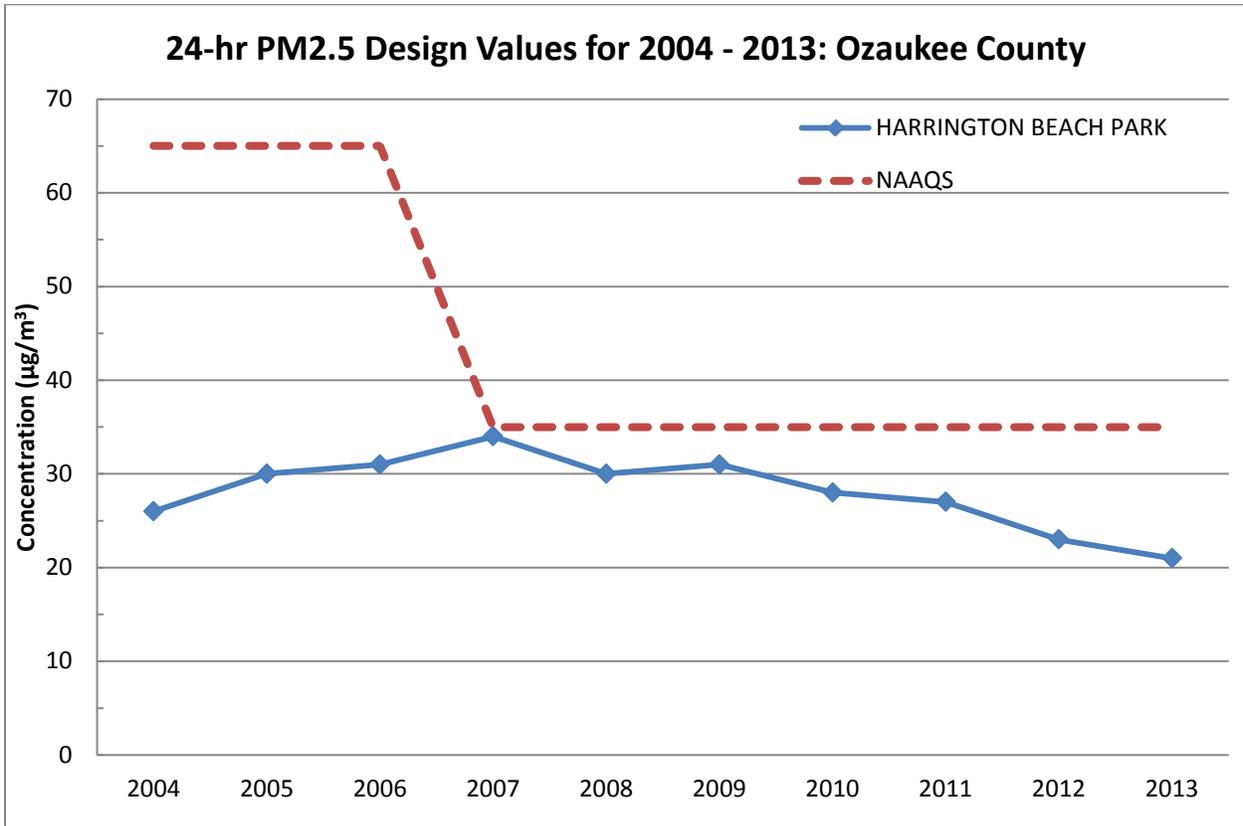
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Ozaukee County

PM_{2.5} monitoring in Ozaukee County takes place at 531 Highway D in Harrington Beach State Park, while ozone monitoring takes place at both Harrington Beach and the intersection of Highway 57 and I-43 in Grafton.



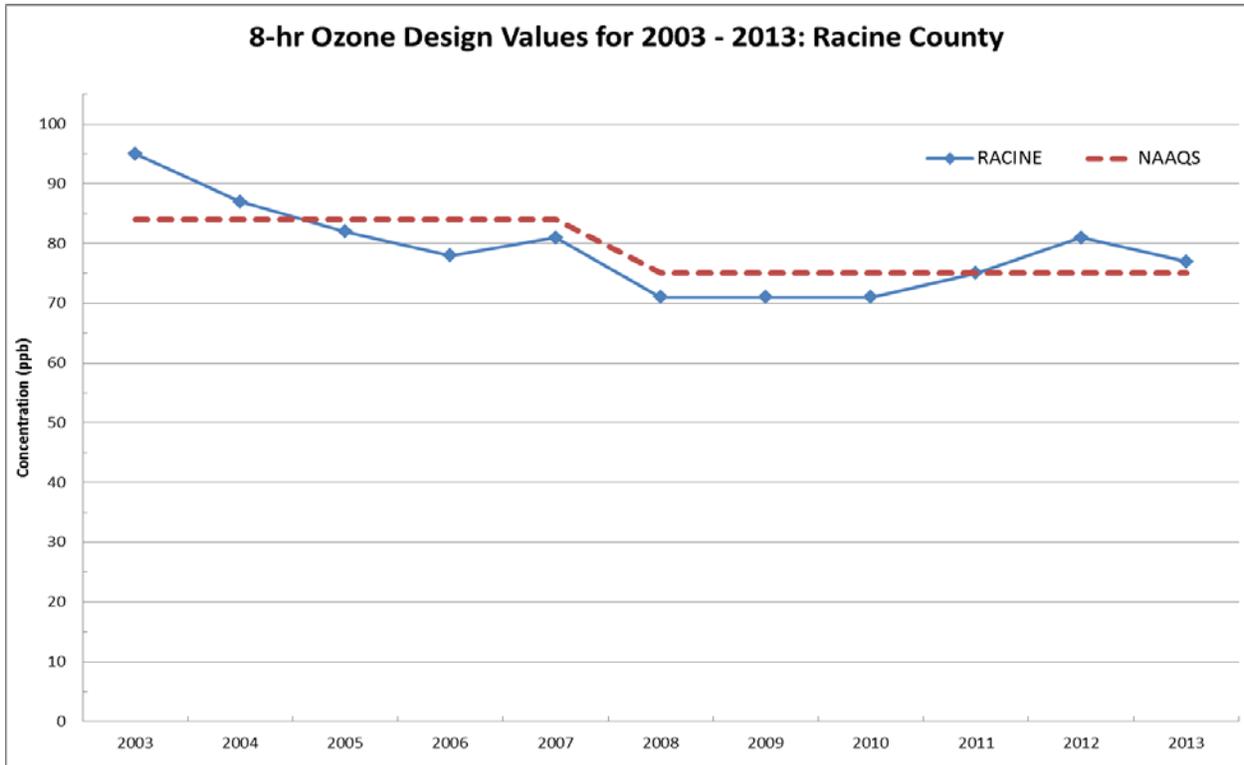
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Racine County

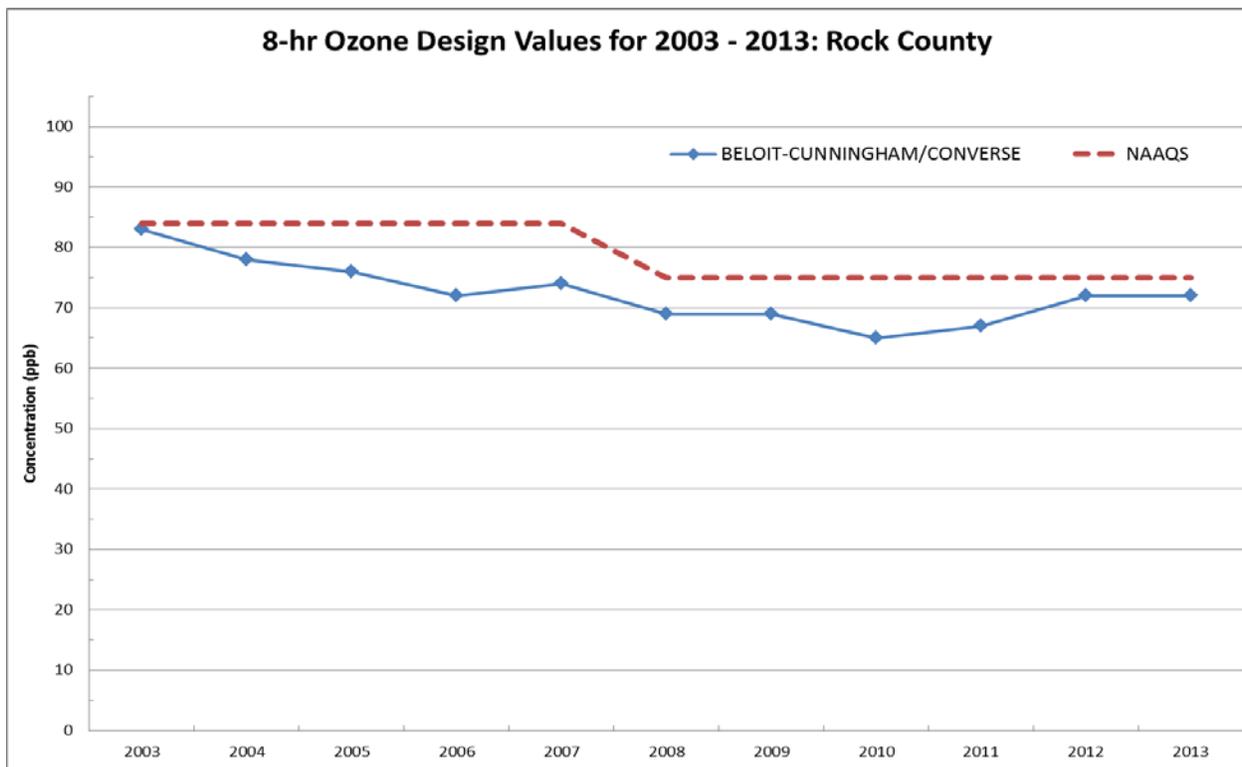
Ozone monitoring in Racine County was performed at 1519 Washington Avenue inside a local business in the downtown area of the City of Racine. This site shut down at the end of 2013.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Rock County

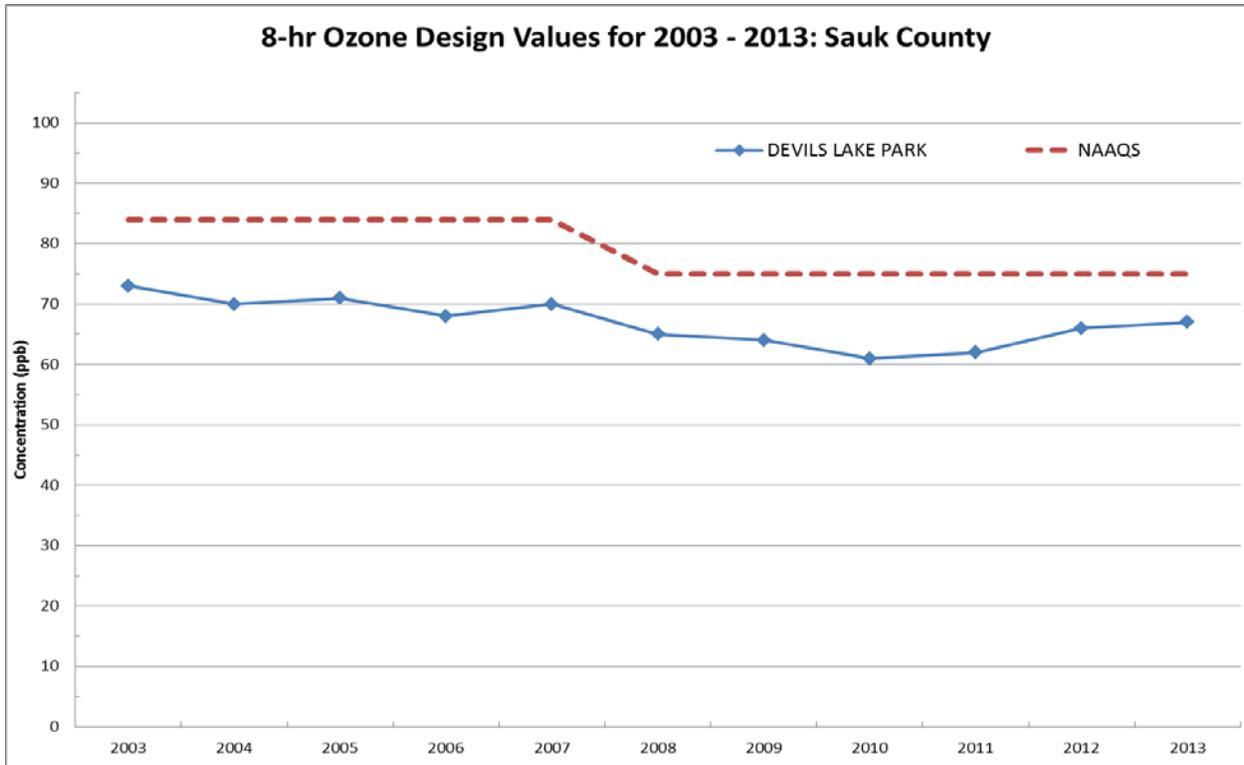
Ozone monitoring in Rock County is conducted at 1948 Merrill Street in Beloit. The site is located in a fenced area at the Cunningham School.



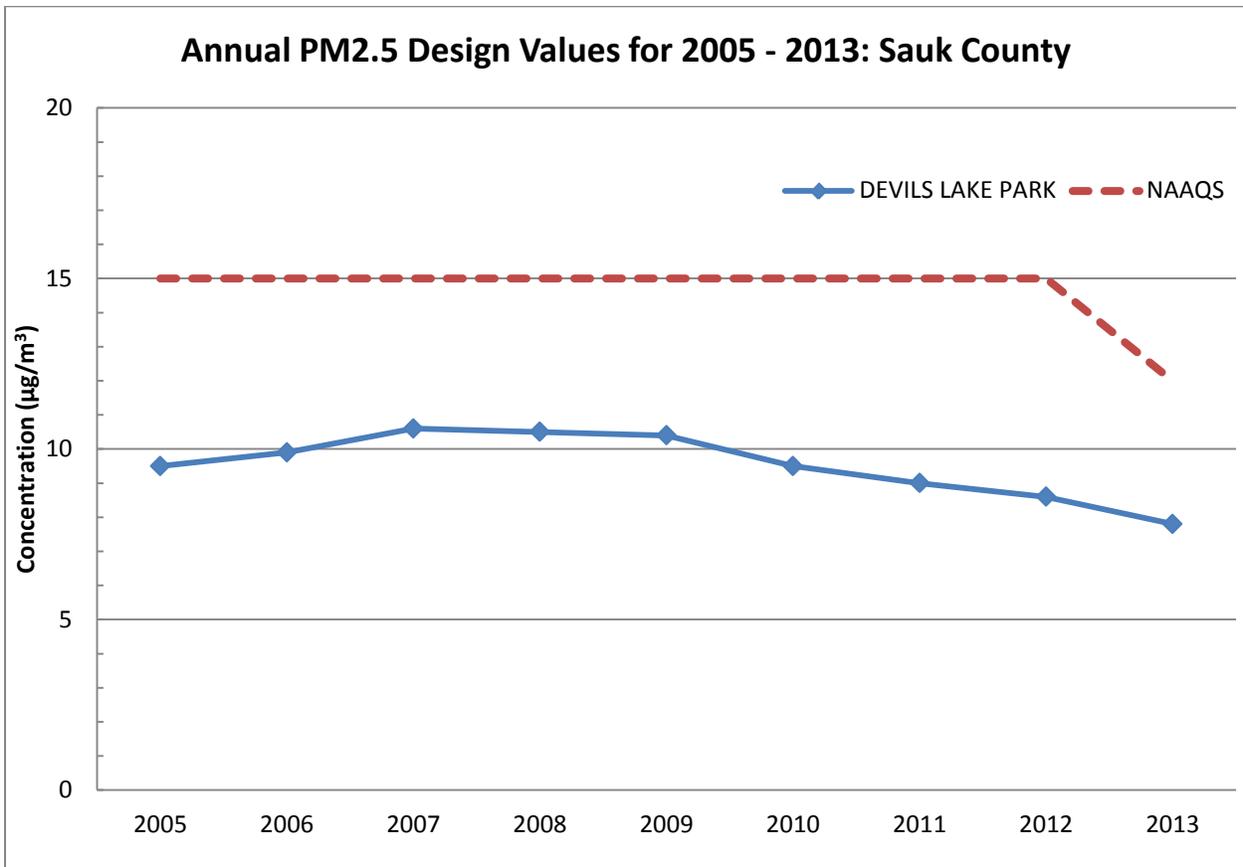
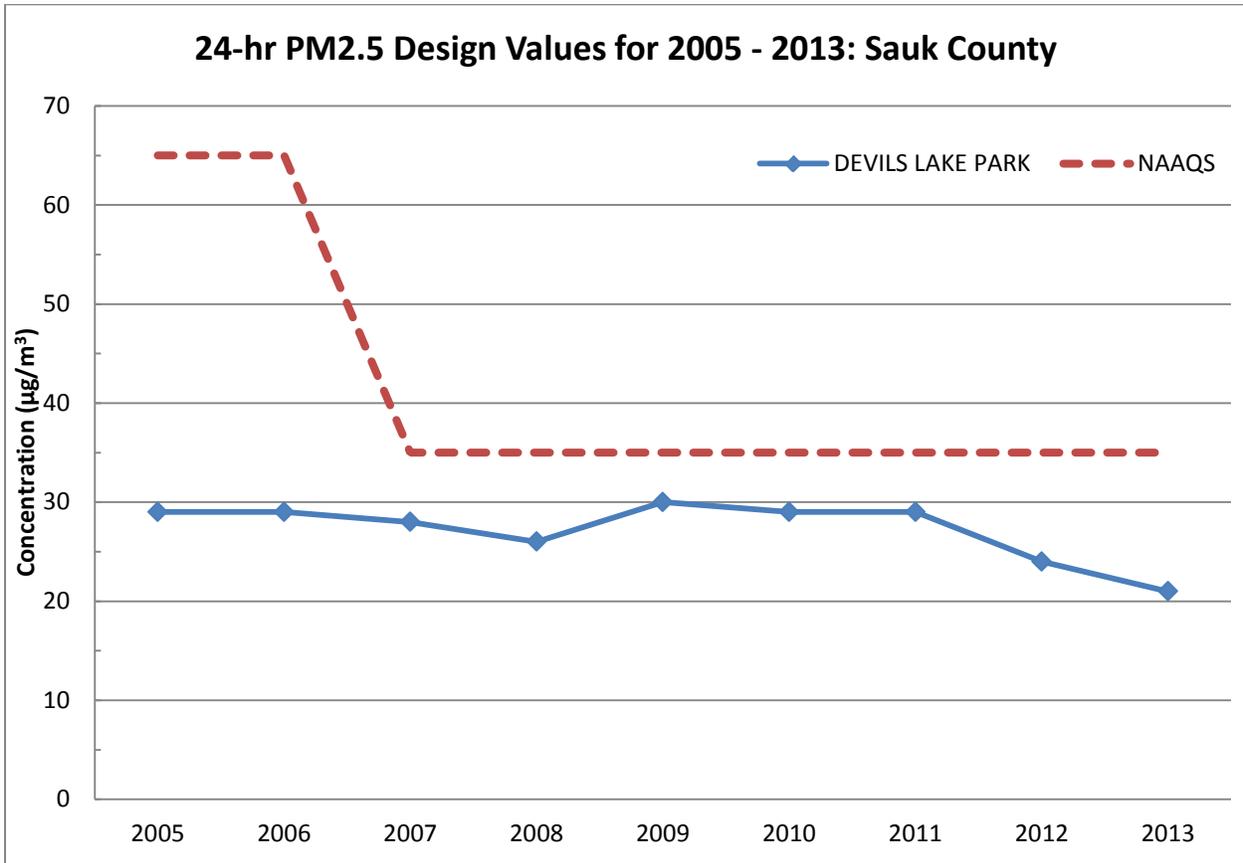
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Sauk County

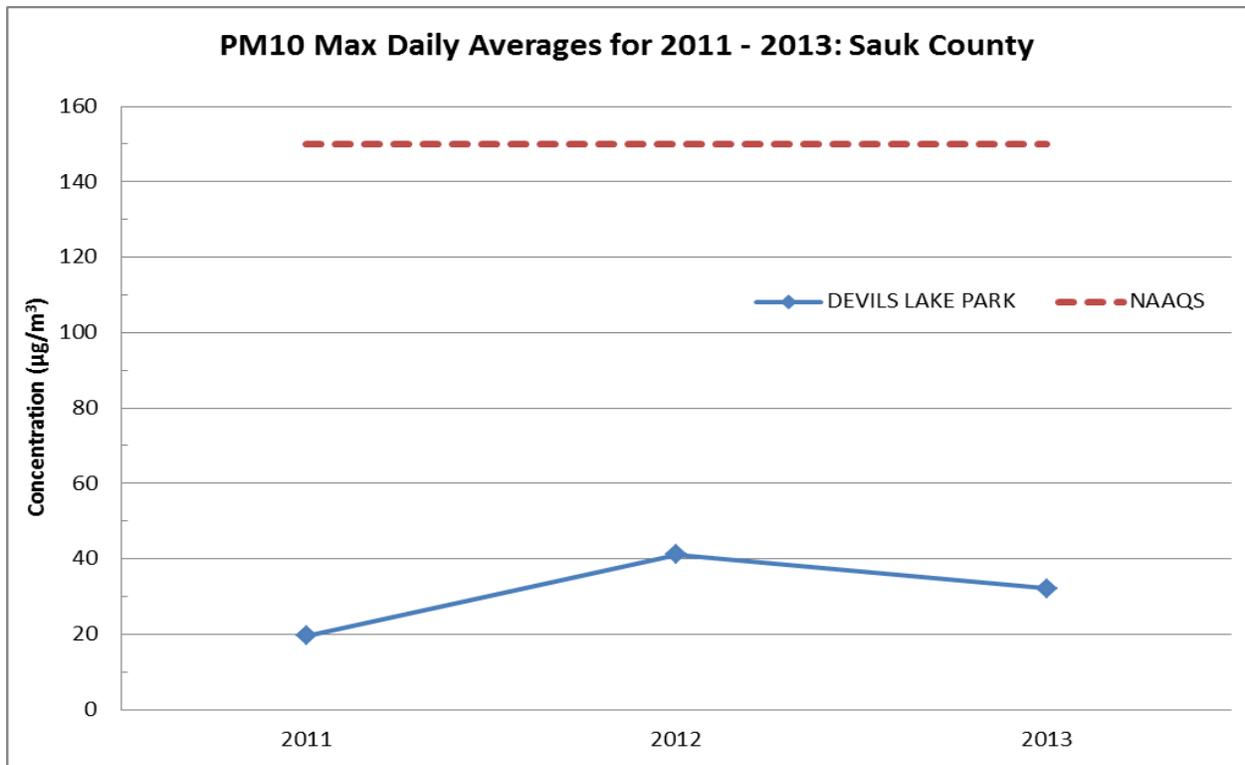
PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and ozone monitoring in Sauk County takes place at Devil's Lake State Park at E12886 Tower Road in Baraboo.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



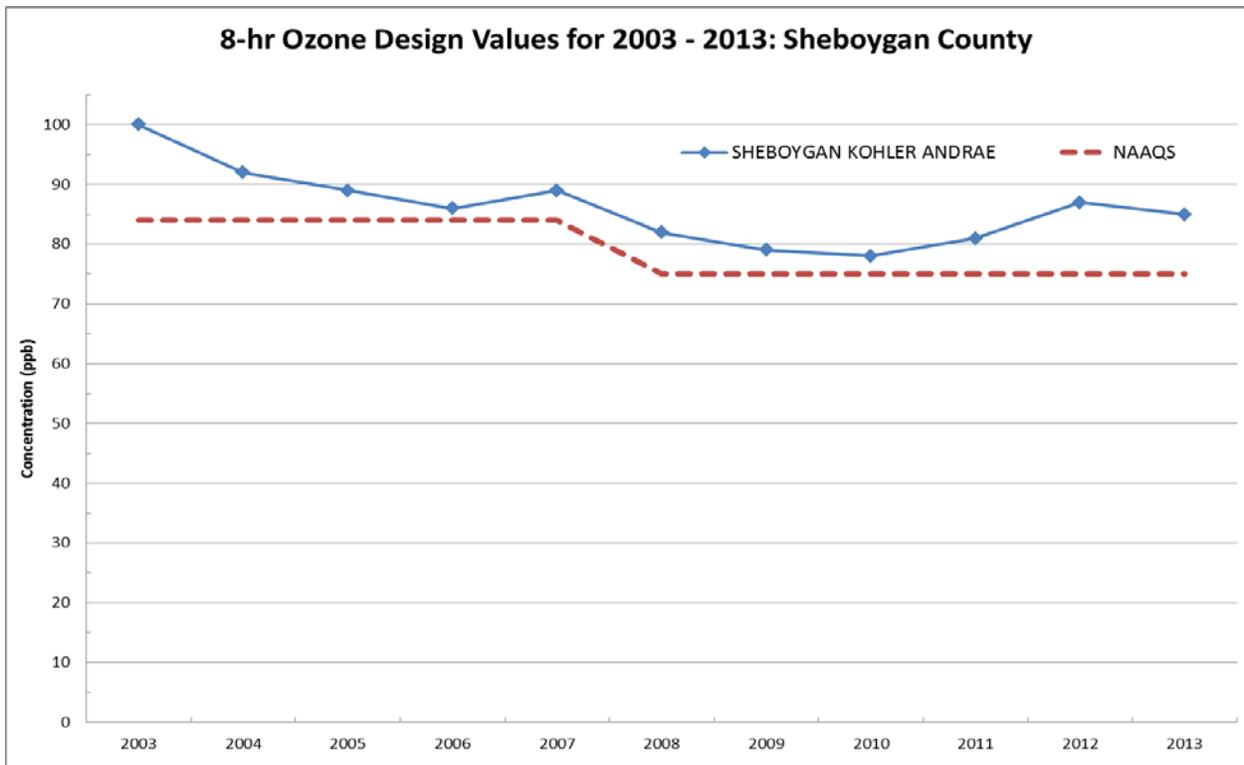
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Sheboygan County

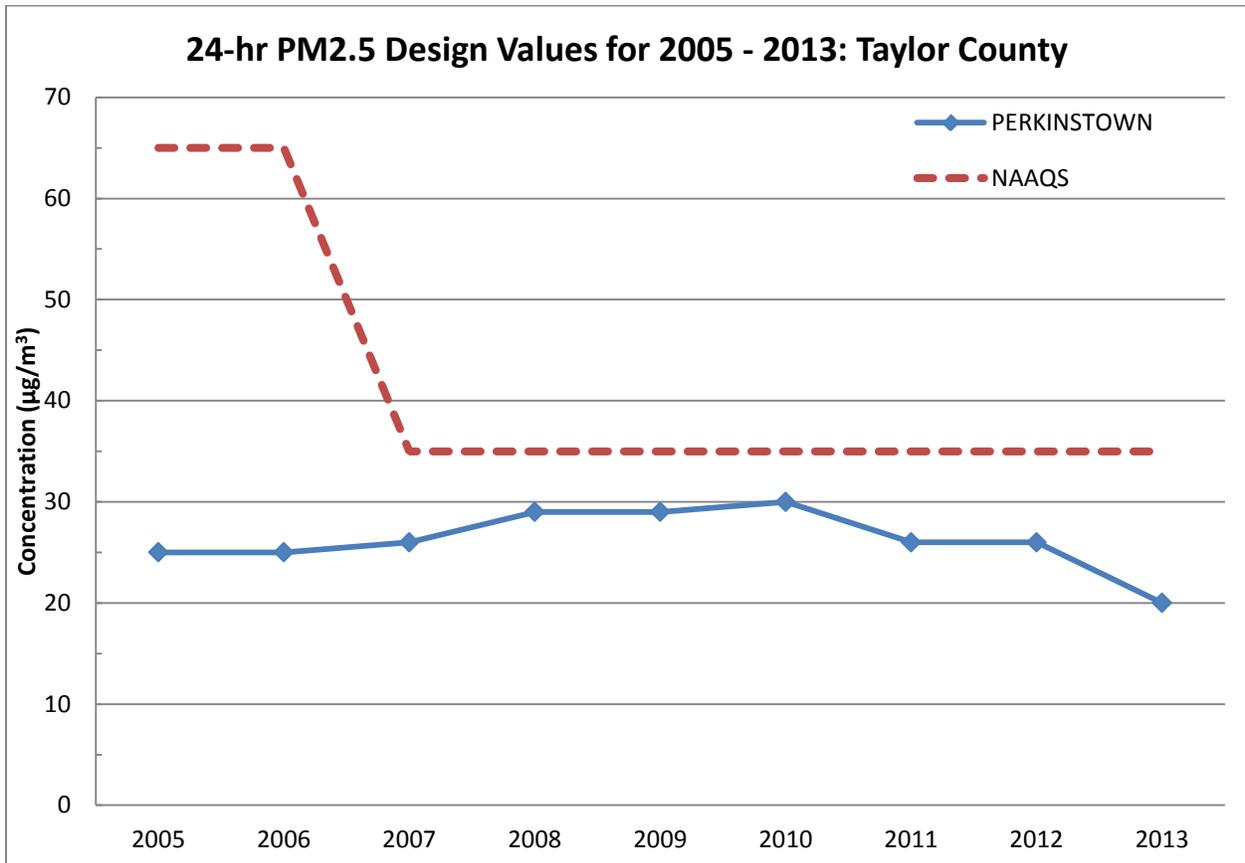
Ozone monitoring in Sheboygan County is performed inside the nature center at Kohler-Andre State Park. This Lake Michigan shoreline site is located at 1520 Beach Park Road. A second special purpose ozone monitoring site has been added for the 2014 ozone season. The special purpose site is located near the intersection of Highway 42 and County Road JJ. While this report only addresses data from the Kohler-Andrae site, the two ozone sites will be compared in a separate document.

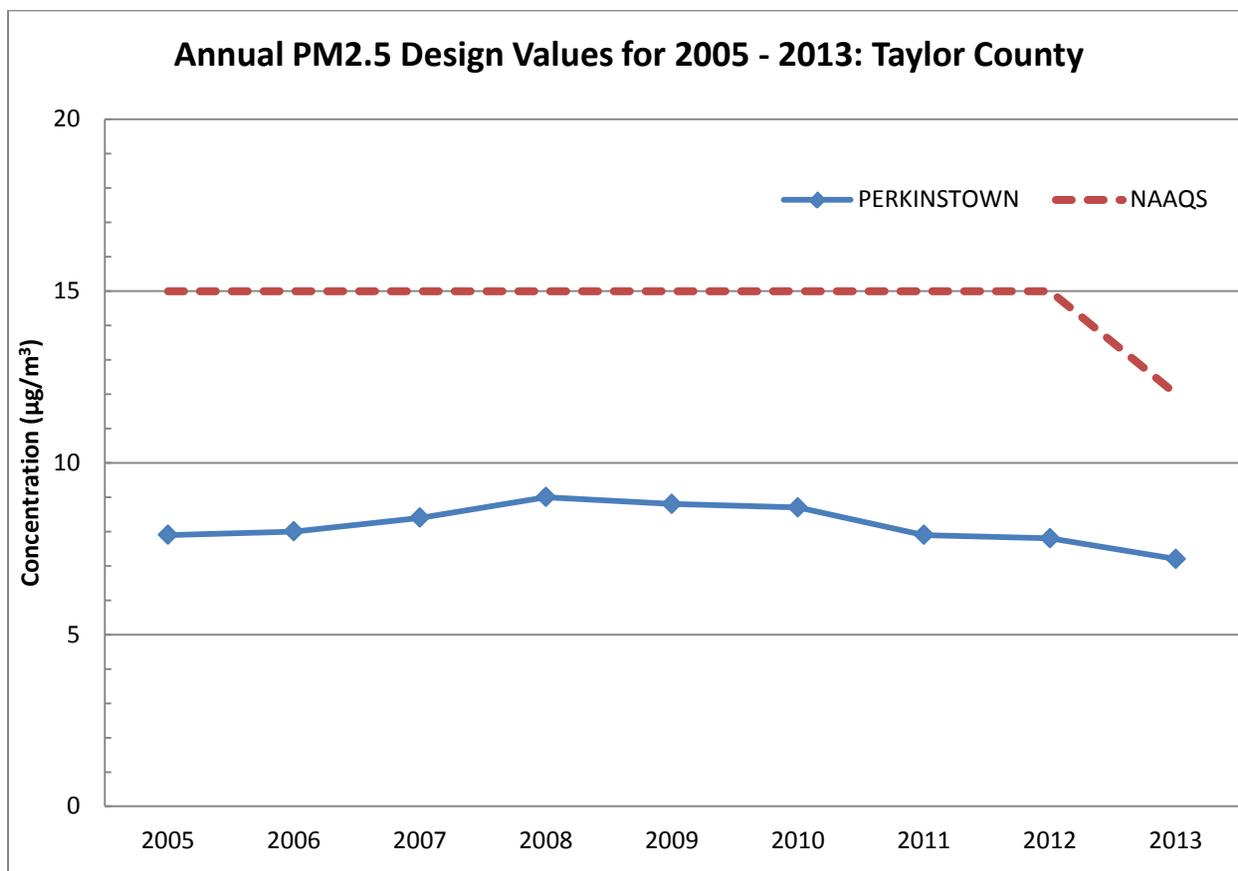


Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Taylor County

PM_{2.5} monitoring in Taylor County takes place at a rural site one mile east of Perkinstown on State Highway M.

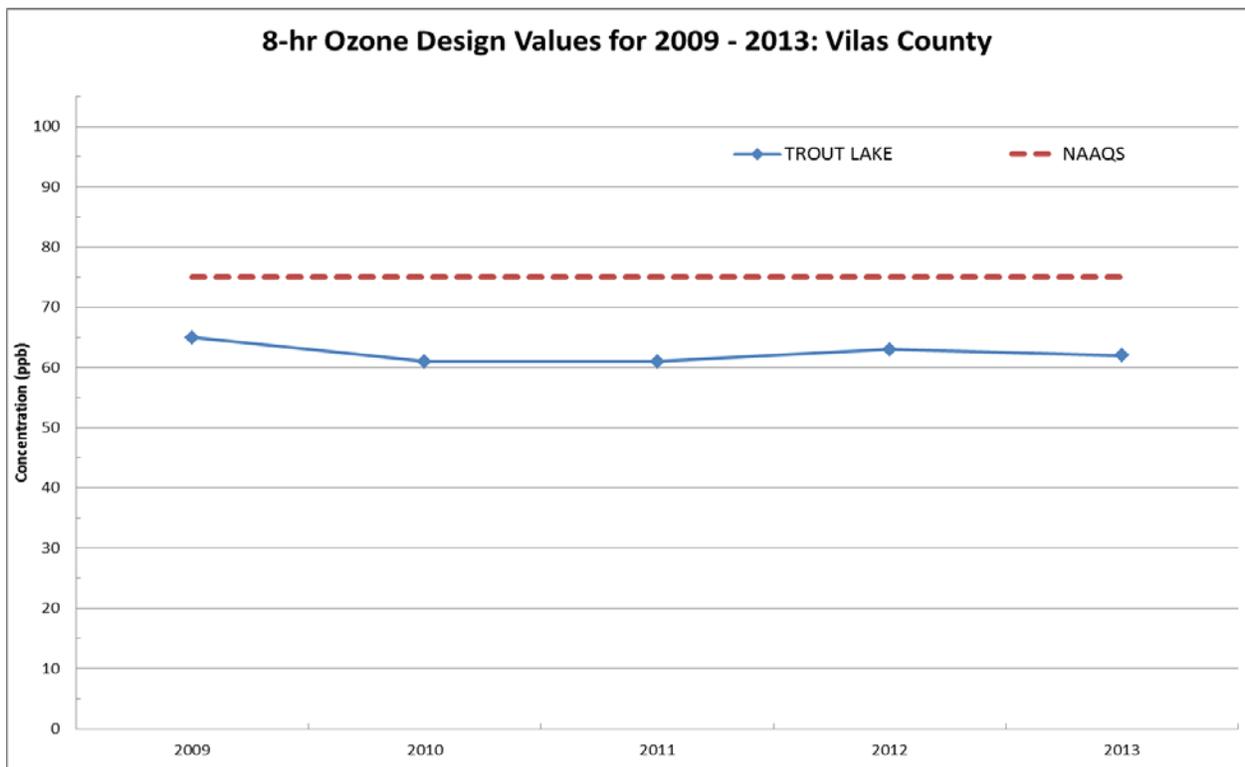




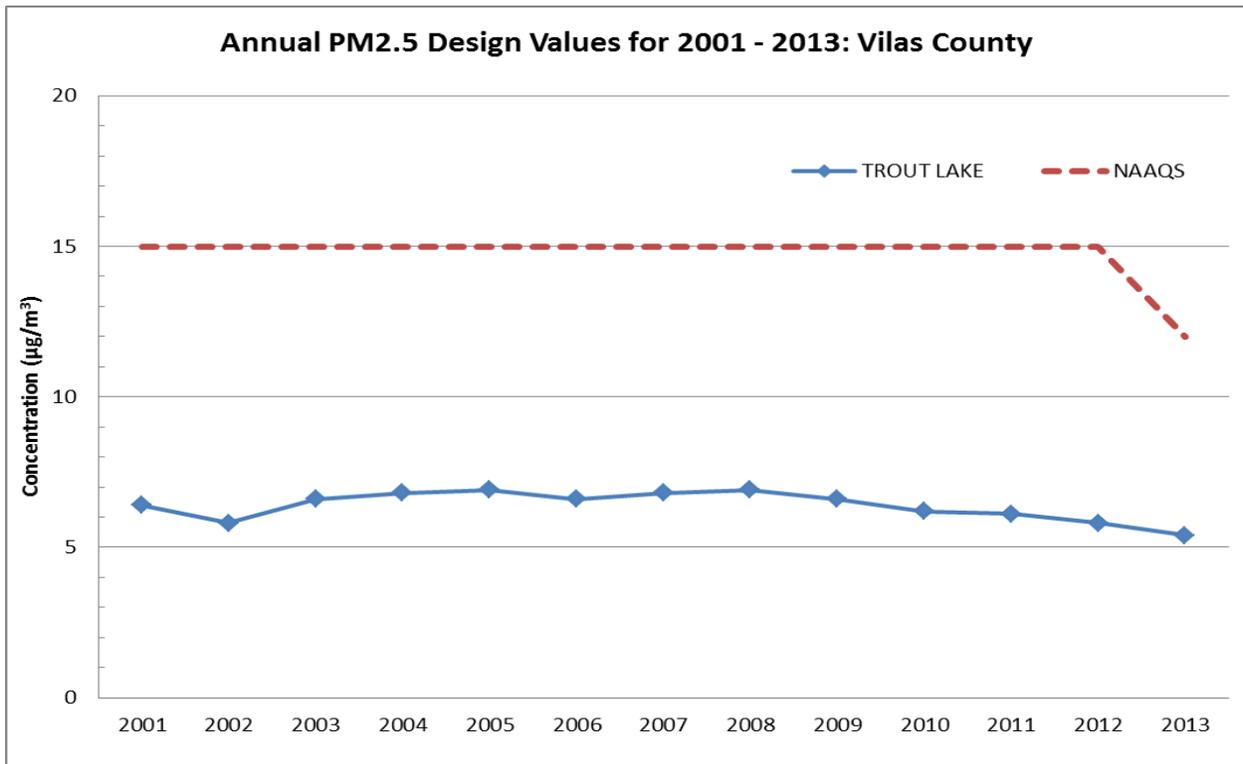
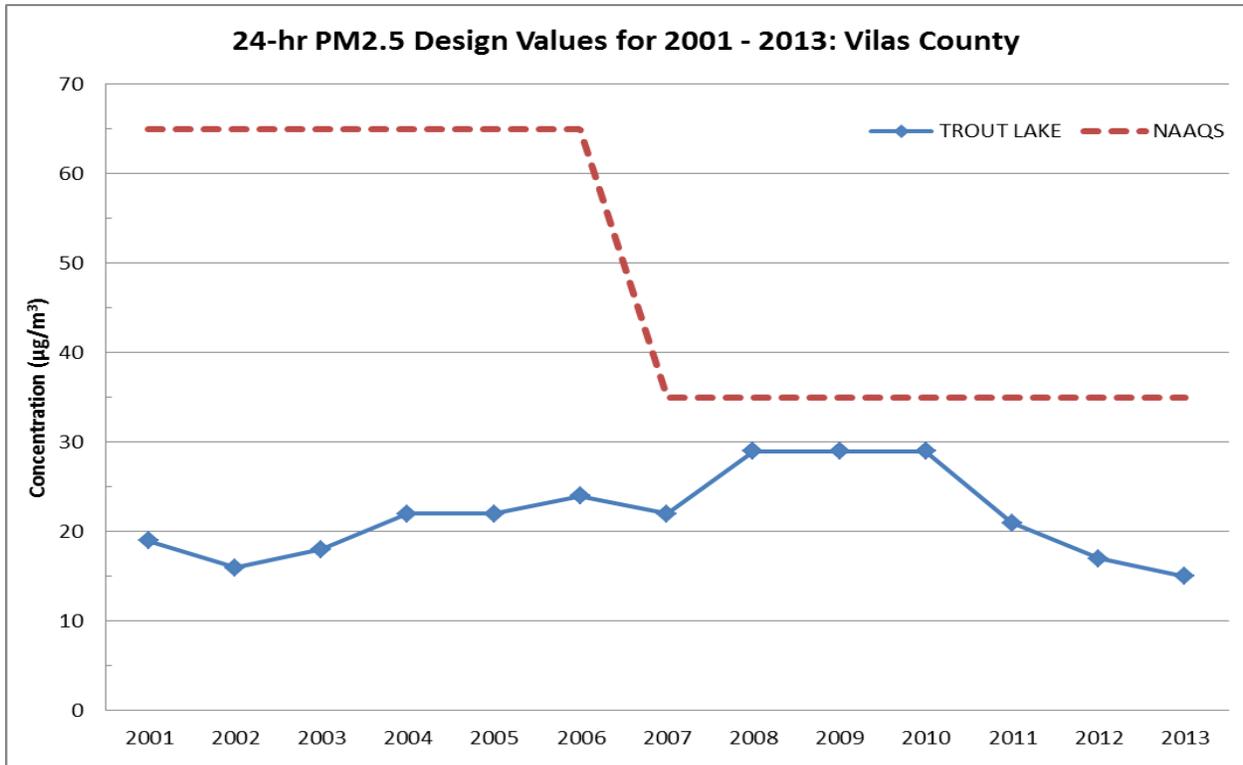
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Vilas County

PM_{2.5} and ozone monitoring in Vilas County is conducted in a field at the DNR Forestry Site at 10810 County Highway M in Boulder Junction.



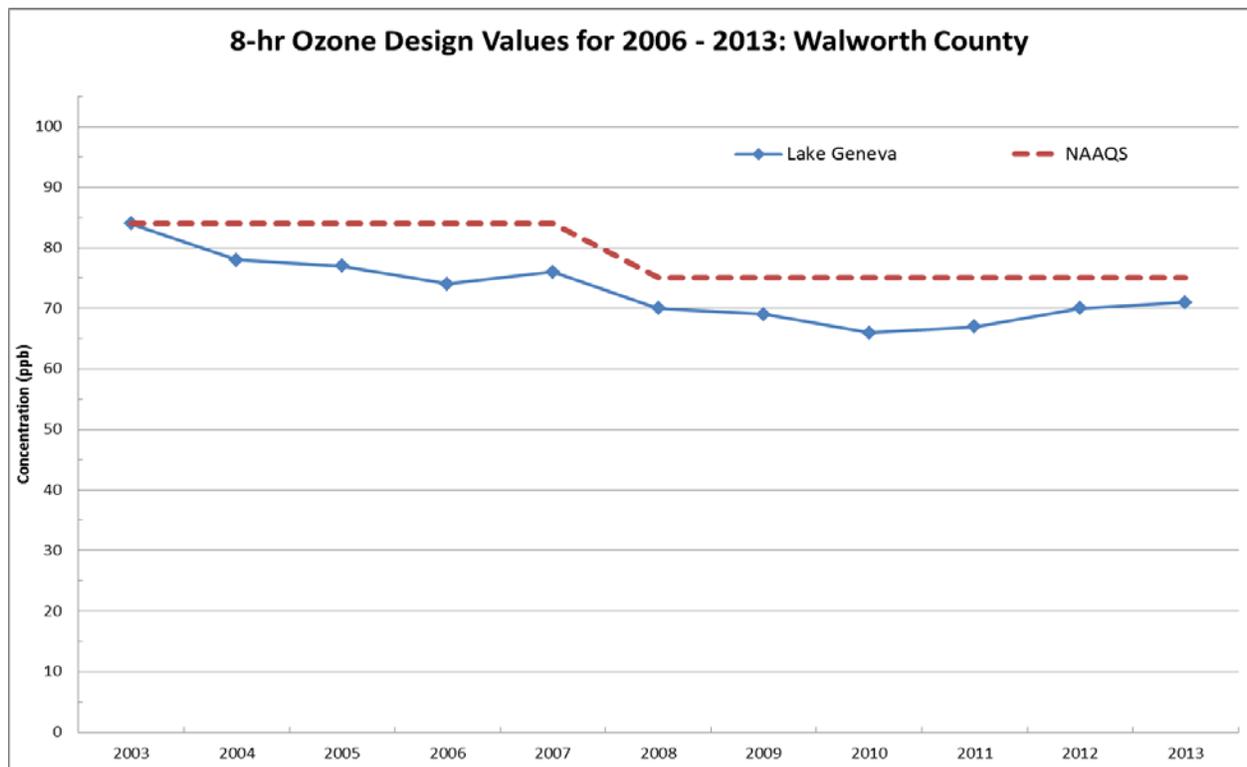
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Walworth County

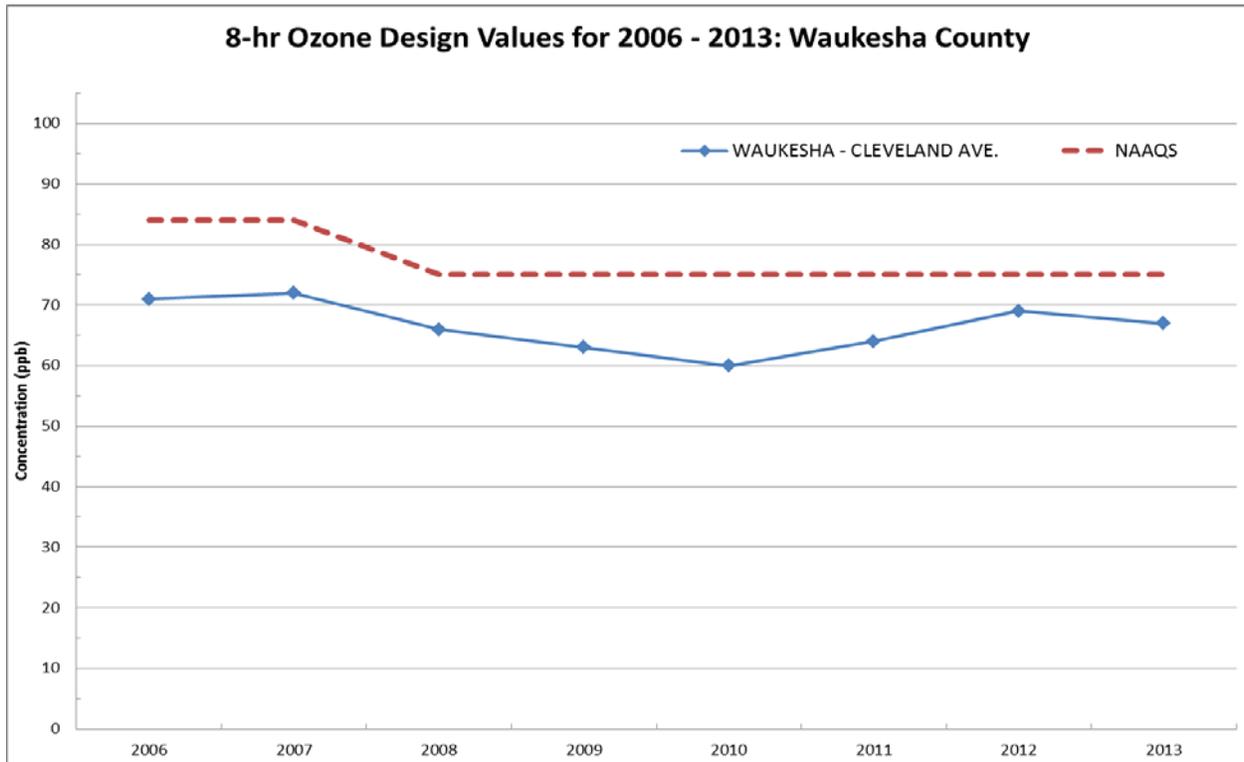
Ozone monitoring in Walworth County is performed at a rural site on the outskirts of the City of Lake Geneva. The address for the site is Rural Route 4 Elgin Club Road.



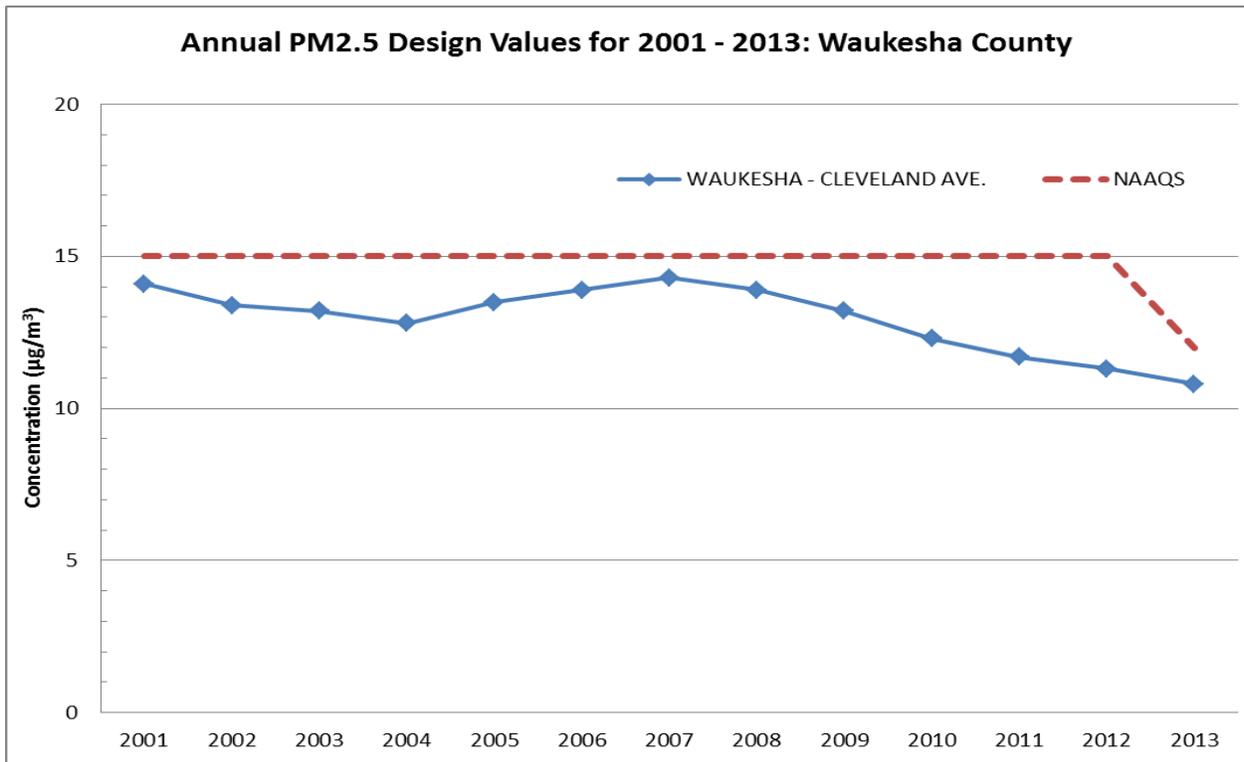
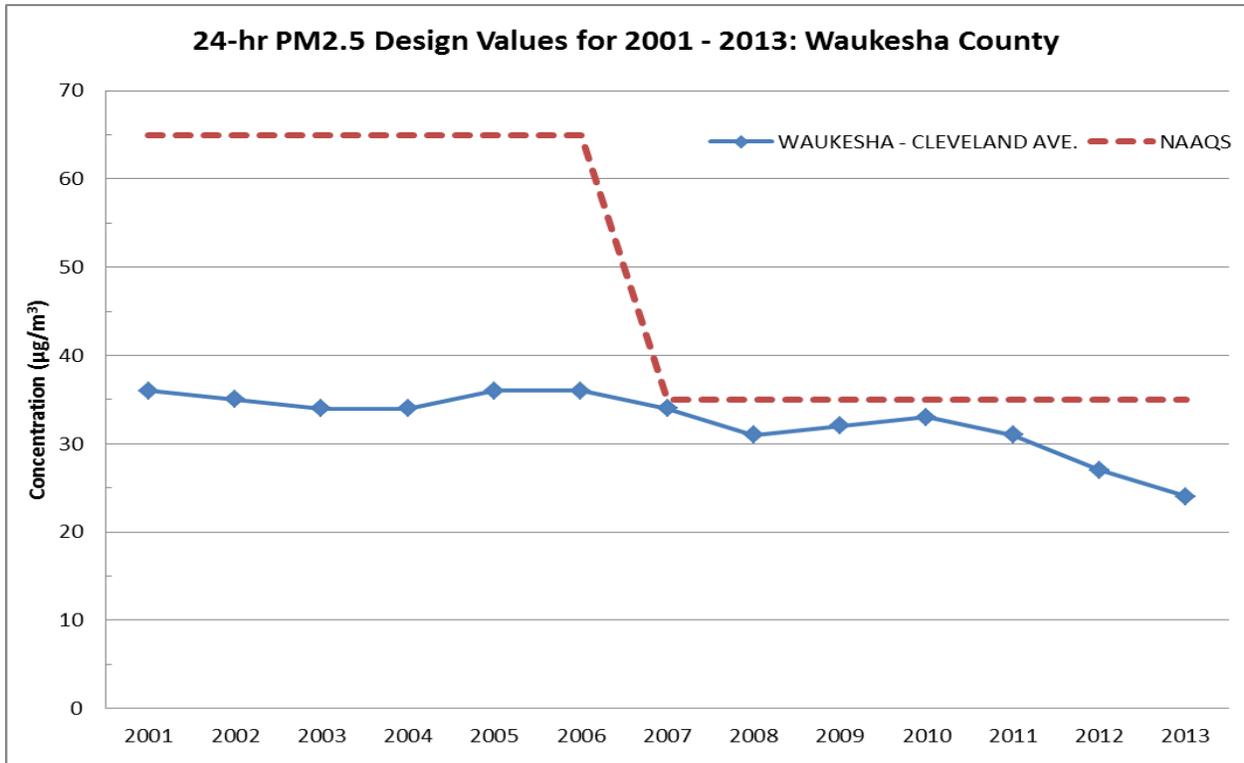
Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

Waukesha County

PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, and ozone monitoring in Waukesha County is conducted in a fenced-in area on a city lot at 1310 Cleveland Avenue in the City of Waukesha. Sampling for daily concentrations of PM_{2.5} and ozone began on January 22, 2004 and April 29, 2004, respectively. Prior to these dates, sampling for ozone in Waukesha County was performed at a Carroll College site.



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends



Wisconsin Air Quality Trends

